

Campaign to fight lead damage to babies

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

Evidence of a direct connection between still births and malformations in babies and the amount of lead pollution from car exhausts was presented in London yesterday. The lead passes across the placenta from the mother to the infant during pregnancy.

Dr Fraser Alexander, a consultant paediatrician at Newcastle General Hospital, Newcastle upon Tyne, described research showing that in heavily polluted urban atmospheres unborn babies were at high risk.

He is among the scientific and medical advisory board of an organization launched yesterday, the Campaign for Lead-free Air (CLEAR), which presented its most recent report of clinical and laboratory investigations into the hazards of using lead additives in petrol.

Fifteen eminent obstetricians, paediatricians, toxicologists, and psychiatrists are advising the campaign, which is also supported by more than 140 MPs from all parties.

A trust which includes Dame Elizabeth Ackroyd, Dr Jonathan Miller, Lord Avebury, the Bishop of Birmingham and Mr Clive Jenkins has been formed to carry out research and a programme of public education.

Eight environmental groups have come together to support the campaign, which is seeking the abolition of lead in petrol.

The campaign has five ob-

jectives. The maximum limit of 0.15 grams of lead a gallon of petrol should be introduced earlier than the official date of 1985, and it should be for existing cars only. Second, all cars sold by 1985 should be lead-free. The third aim is that all petrol stations should have lead-free petrol available.

The fourth and fifth goals are that taxation on petrol should give a price advantage to lead-free petrol, and surveillance of the use of lead generally should be encouraged and enforced by law.

Dr Robin Russell Jones, a paediatrician in a London hospital, said: "Lead has no business inside our bodies. There are over 4,000 papers in scientific and medical journals about lead. Not one has ever suggested it is essential for human health."

He presented a review of the accumulation of lead in human bodies from early man to the present day. Analysis of archaeological remains showed, he said, that "natural" man had less than 0.2 of a part per million of lead in the body.

That concentration increased 10 times with the development of industrial processes such as smelting in urban areas. With the introduction of lead additive in petrol, the amount deposited in the bones of "lead-poisoned man" of the twentieth century was 500 times higher than natural man's level.

Even in remote areas of the

Local Tory favoured to fight Hillhead

By Alan Hamilton

The local Conservative association in Glasgow, Hillhead, is to meet on Thursday night to choose a candidate to fight Mr Roy Jenkins in the forthcoming by-election, caused by the death of Sir Thomas Galbraith, who held the seat for the Tories for 33 years.

All the other main parties have named their candidates for the contest, for which no writ has yet been issued but which is thought likely to be called for March 18, conveniently between a Budget containing some crumbs of government and the start of campaigning for the Scottish regional elections.

Officials of the Hillhead Association are following the usual practice of interviewing all candidates on the short list at a meeting tomorrow night. They will then invite the two leading contenders to return the next night and ask them to address the selection committee before a final choice is made.

The favoured contender is Mr Leonard Turpie, aged 47, a Glasgow solicitor and leader of the 24-strong Conservative opposition on Strathclyde Regional Council. Mr Turpie's candidature has been in some doubt in recent weeks because of publicity given to allegations of malpractice in the Glasgow firm of which he is a partner.

Last month, Mr Turpie's firm was brought before the Scottish Solicitors' Discipline Tribunal and found guilty of a breach of the solicitors' account rules governing the use of clients' money held in trust. Mr Turpie himself was found guilty, but no penalty was imposed, while other partners in the practice were fined. His wife, Mrs Deirdre Turpie, who is also a partner, was suspended.

An appeal against the ruling, to be heard before the Court of Session in Edinburgh, is pending.

The local party is anxious to have a strong contender to fight the SDP challenge from Mr Jenkins, although opinion polls so far published predict that the Conservatives will lose their last seat in Glasgow by a considerable margin. Labour's prospective candidate is Mr David Wiseman, a Strathclyde social worker.

The other leading contenders are Mr Robert Johnston, an insurance company property superintendent and leader of the Tory opposition group on Glasgow District Council, whose ward of Anniesland covers half of the Hillhead constituency; and Mr William Aitken, a former director of the Conservative Central Office in Scotland, who now edits the Church of Scotland's monthly magazine, *Life and Work*.

Labour Party sources in Glasgow yesterday indicated that they would welcome a strong Conservative candidate, as that would help to stave off the Social Democratic challenge.



International flavour: Mr Aurelius Fernandez, the American Embassy press attaché, accepting a baggis on behalf of the ambassador from pipers of the 2nd Battalion, The Scots Guards. They are raising money for charity.

Toxteth ethnic centre facing loss of grant

By Lucy Hodges

Liverpool council is poised to withdraw its £25,000 grant from the Charles Wootton Centre, the adult education centre for black people in Toxteth, which it is feared will lead to its closure.

The decision, made by the council's services working party last week, is causing alarm in Liverpool, the scene of the worst riots of last summer.

Mr Paul Sommerfeld, senior community relations officer, said yesterday: "It is quite incomprehensible. One would have thought, given the events of last summer, that the city council would be tripping over itself to put more resources into the area, particularly when it comes to education."

Observers suspect that the decision to withdraw the grant, which goes before the full council tomorrow, is not disconnected with the fact that the centre is the headquarters for the Liverpool 8 Defence Committee, a group which has been assisting the defence of people facing charges arising from the riots, as well as meeting government ministers to discuss the district's problems. The committee has

called for the dismissal of Mr Kenneth Oxford, Chief Constable of Merseyside.

Set up about eight years ago, the centre was named after Charles Wootton, a black who was killed in the Liverpool race riots of 1981.

The working party which took the decision to withdraw the grant, which pays for salaries and operating costs, was chaired by Sir Trevor Jones, the Liberal leader of the council.

Home Office ideas on reforming the system for handling complaints against the police were attacked from two sides yesterday. Mrs Margaret Simey, chairman of the Merseyside Police Authority, described the scheme as "lamentable pre-riot" (Our Home Affairs Correspondent writes).

The Home Office scheme, which goes before the Government's police advisory board today, involves the use of an independent assessor of police investigations into serious complaints and a conciliation process for minor ones.

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The cube is laid bare in court

By David Nicholson-Lord

The multicoloured cube that humbles adults, aggrandizes precocious children and poses the latest threat to family morale in the West yesterday had its innermost workings laid bare in the High Court.

Pieces of Dr Erno Rubik's master-designed cube lay somewhat forlornly about Court 37 as its Hungarian producers sought to prove their similarity to an alleged copy, made in Singapore and imported by a British company, Dallas Print Transfers, of Brixton Road, London.

The case, the newest variation on the billions of combinations already credited to the cube, is the culmination of proceedings for copyright and passing-off begun last March. Damages are being claimed against Dallas for its distribution of a rival teaser known as the Wonderful Puzzler.

According to Mr Michael Lyndon-Stanford, QC, for Politechnika, the Hungarian state cooperative, and the official British distributors, Ideal Toys, more than 200,000 Rubik cubes had been sold in Britain by early last year. But perhaps 40,000 Wonderful Puzzlers had also been imported.

Mr Lyndon-Stanford described the cube as a toy of "some intellectual standing", superbly designed both to confound and entertain. It was said to have reduced mathematicians to tears.

It had been marketed by an "unusual and cleverly engineered" publicity campaign, he said. No advertising space had been bought; instead, cubes had been sent to disc jockeys, articles appeared in newspapers, and Dr Rubik had appeared on television.

The culmination of the campaign, Mr Lyndon-Stanford said, was the featuring of the cube on a Saturday morning BBC television programme early last year. Interest, already quite considerable, became tremendous.

In response to a comment from Mr Justice Dillon that it was a "good thing to have your commercials on the air", Mr Lyndon-Stanford agreed that it was certainly clever.

By that time, however, rumours were rife that the cube was being copied, and warning notices were placed in trade magazines. But Dallas denied its Wonderful Puzzlers at a gift fair in Birmingham and went ahead with sales. In March proceedings were begun which have since led to almost a dozen court hearings.

Not only was the black and gold packaging of the two cubes extremely similar, Mr Lyndon-Stanford said, but the size, shape and hollowness of lugs, connecting elements and rotating members had also to be considered.

Asked later whether he knew how the Rubik cube worked, Mr Justice Dillon said he did not. "But I do not see that matters", he added.

The case continues today.

Science report Nile floods theory for mud in the Med

By the Staff of "Nature"

Torrential flooding of the Nile Valley between 8,000 and 9,000 years ago has been advanced as the explanation for a distinctive layer of mud deposits in cores taken from the bottom of the eastern Mediterranean.

The development is important because it links the formation of the mud, known as sapropel, with the postglacial climate of Equatorial Africa, and the eastern Mediterranean.

The authors of the research, all from Paris, have nothing to say about the possibility that 1,000 years of gigantic floods in the Nile Valley may now be linked with the biblical account of Noah's flood. The oceanographers responsible are Maurice Rostek-Schmidt, of the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, and Vladimir Nestoroff, Philippe Olive, and Colette Vergnaud-Grazzini, all from the Université Pierre et Marie Curie.

The sapropel mud deposits of the Mediterranean have long been a puzzle. Although apparently formed in deep water, they are unusual in that they contain many organisms ordinarily found in surface waters which are devoid of deep-living fossils. It seems agreed that sapropel muds are formed only in warm seas in which the bottom water has become stagnant and too salty to support ordinary forms of marine life.

Hitherto, the most common explanation of the sapropel muds has been that the Mediterranean was flooded with fresh water from the melting of the glacial ice in Eurasia towards the end of the most recent Ice Age. On that view, the mud should have been formed about 13,000 years ago.

The group from Paris has shown that explanation to be false by a careful dating of the carbonate deposits above and below the latest layer of mud in a core recovered from a depth of three kilometres to the south-west of Cyprus. By the time the mud was deposited the flow of melt-water from the Black Sea should long since have ceased.

Further support for that explanation comes from an analysis of pollen in the mud, which is characteristic of the temperate climate of the littoral of the eastern Mediterranean 8,000 years ago. A similar explanation is put forward for the sapropel mud, laid down between 10,500 and 11,700 years ago.

The reasons for the stagnation of the eastern Mediterranean are inferred from the progressive change in the ratio of oxygen isotopes in the two mud layers, which seems to go back to the climatic of the most recent glaciation 18,000 years ago. Although usually an indicator of temperature, the variations recorded are too great to be explained as simply as that.

For that reason it is suggested that towards the end of the most recent glaciation, when the input of energy from the Sun would have been greater than at present because of changes in the Earth's orbit about the Sun, the water was evaporated from the Eastern Mediterranean more rapidly than at present, with the result that its salinity increased.

Soon afterwards, the argument goes, heavy rain fell over the central African continent, Nile floods discharging more than two and a half times as much water as those known in the Nile before the Aswan Dam was built.

Source: *Nature*, vol 295, p. 518, 25 January 1982.

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NEWS IN SUMMARY

Yard holds IRA bomb suspect

A man in his twenties was being questioned by Scotland Yard detectives last night in connection with IRA bomb attacks in London. Richard Foster (writes from Belfast).

The man was held in the Roman Catholic Short Strand area of Belfast on Sunday by uniformed police. He was taken to London for further questioning in what is regarded by police as a significant arrest.

It is understood, however, that the man is not connected with the most recent bomb attacks in London, involving explosions in Oxford Street, Dulwich and Woolwich.

Yard sources said last night that the arrested man was not Gerard Tuohy, who escaped from the high security wing of Brixton prison in December, 1980 (Stewart Tandler writes).

It is understood he will be charged within the next few days with conspiracy to cause explosions in London, but the charges do not relate to the attacks just before Christmas.

DHSS pulls out of jobs scheme

Mr Hugh Ross, Minister for the Disabled, is being forced to defy a government scheme giving preference to disabled people because of civil service job cuts. A Labour MP said yesterday (Pat Healey writes).

Mr Alfred Morris, a former Minister for the Disabled, described as extremely worrying, the decision of the Department of Health and Social Security to pull out of the job release scheme, under which disabled men can retire at 60 and claim greater benefits, provided their employers take on an unemployed person. Able-bodied men can retire at 63.

Jetstream boost for plane jobs

British Aerospace yesterday unveiled an aircraft aimed at winning a larger share of the growing United States and European business jet market when the Jetstream 31 turbo-prop was ceremonially piped into a hangar at its Prestwick plant.

It will ensure employment for up to 2,000 British Aerospace Scottish division workers, with up to 1,500 more in United Kingdom suppliers.

Sir Austin Pearce, the chairman, said that if the company had not rejected expert financial advice to drop the project, "the end of Prestwick as an aircraft manufacturing centre was very near".

Six jailed over £12m drugs ring

Six men who distributed drugs in a £12m international cocaine smuggling ring were yesterday jailed for a total of 42 years at Lewes Crown Court.

The six men all originally denied supplying cocaine between 1974 and 1981.

Colin Brown, aged 35, of Vauxhall Road, changed his plea to guilty, and was sentenced to 12 years. Stanley Alderman, aged 45, of Warren Road, London, was sentenced to 10 years. John Gordon, aged 40, of Cornwall Gardens, London, was sentenced to 10 years. Stanley Thomas, aged 35, of St. Paul's Road, London, was sentenced to 10 years. Stanley Thomas, aged 35, of St. Paul's Road, London, was sentenced to 10 years. Stanley Thomas, aged 35, of St. Paul's Road, London, was sentenced to 10 years.

Dead actor had money problems

Mr Ronald Lewis, the actor, killed himself with a total dose of drugs, a Westminster coroner's court decided yesterday after hearing evidence from his brother that Mr Lewis was having financial difficulties and living on social security.

Dons' redundancy scheme approved

By Diana Geddes, Education Correspondent

The fact that most university teachers have unusual tenure arrangements giving them security of employment until retirement means that they should receive more generous redundancy payments than is usually appropriate, Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education and Science, said yesterday.

He had therefore agreed to approve the main provisions of the national redundancy fund for academic staff put forward by the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals, Sir Keith said in a Commons written reply. All those whose service was terminated on or before September 30, 1984, would be eligible.

Approval of the scheme was forecast in the Times last week. It had been estimated that the universities would have to reduce their academic staff by "something over 5,000, or about one in six," over the next two years, Sir Keith said. A significant proportion of that reduction could be achieved only by redundancy or early retirement.

Under the new scheme, which is based on a similar redundancy scheme for so-called "mobile" civil servants, dons under the age of 50 will be eligible for an immediate lump sum payment equivalent to a month's pay for each year of service and a further

month's pay for each year of service after their thirtieth birthday or after completing five years of service, whichever is the later.

Thus a don aged 47 with 22 years' service on a salary of £14,500 would receive an immediate lump sum of nearly £47,200, and a pension on reaching 65 of nearly £4,000, together with a further lump sum of nearly £12,000.

According to estimates prepared by Mr Alexander Irvine, QC for the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals, a don aged 45, for example, on a salary of £13,500 might get more than £200,000 in compensation through the courts if he was unable to get a permanent job, but made casual earnings of £3,000 a year.

The number of British applicants for university entry next autumn is up by 6 per cent, while overseas applicants have dropped by 23 per cent, according to figures released by the Universities Central Council on Admissions.

Subjects in which there have been big increases in applications include biology, mathematics, physics, chemistry, accountancy, sociology, history, art and design, geography, and geology. Applications for civil and mechanical engineering, veterinary studies, and law have declined sharply.

Examples of compensation under the new national redundancy scheme for academic and academic-related staff in universities.

Age	Years of service	Salary	Immediate lump sum	Pension	Additional lump sum at 65
30	5	£7,700	£3,210	£481	£1,444
34	9	£8,925	£9,872	£1,004	£3,012
38	14	£11,000	£21,091	£1,925	£5,775
42	17	£12,305	£29,725	£2,614	£7,844
44	19	£13,190	£36,267	£3,133	£9,398
47	22	£14,515	£47,190	£3,992	£11,975
49	24	£15,410	£52,212	£4,623	£13,869
52	27	£15,410	£52,212	£7,127	—
55	30	£15,410	£52,212	£7,705	—
59	34	£18,480	£27,720	£9,240	—

Risley girl offered place in unit

By a Staff Reporter

The mentally subnormal girl whose detention in Risley remand centre was described by a judge as a public scandal, was offered a hospital place in Essex yesterday.

Dr Robert McKibben, a consultant psychiatrist at Turner Colchester, read about the plight of Julie Gerrard, aged 19, in the newspapers. She was convicted of assault last August and has been in custody for five months because no secure hospital place could be found for her.

Health officials in Dudley, West Midlands, who are responsible for the young woman, were pleased about the offer. "We were getting quite desperate. We have no secure accommodation in the area", Mr Alan Monks, the area health authority's administrator, said.

Judge Chetwynd-Talbot, who was forced to remand the young woman again in Wolverhampton Crown Court last week, was indignant that a mentally subnormal girl should be in a detention centre when she had been sent to a hospital and an appalling state of affairs.

A youth on a murder charge has been seriously injured in an incident at Risley remand centre. He has a broken jaw and a suspected fractured skull, the Home Office said yesterday. Police are investigating.

Barry Carmel, aged 18, of Heulynia, Wrexham, North Wales, was said to be comfortable in hospital at Liverpool. His father, Mr Kenneth Carmel, said: "We have heard that he has been attacked. We are very upset."

TUC votes setback for TGWU

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

The Transport and General Workers' Union yesterday lost its powers of patronage and its seat on the General Council of the TUC.

By six votes to five the TUC finance and general purposes committee endorsed a policy paper that implements the 1981 Blackpool congress decision giving unions with more than 100,000 members an automatic seat on the TUC's ruling body.

Details of the new machinery for selecting the general council have yet to be worked out, but a package of options is expected to be prepared by the staff at Congress House for consideration next month.

It will include transitional arrangements for some of the smaller unions whose leaders held the seats by virtue of the backing of the TGWU. Among them are Mr Raymond Buckton, the general secretary of the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen who yesterday opposed the changes.

The TGWU has consistently supported militant trade union leaders. Its ability to influence the secret ballot for the general council will now be progressively weakened.

Members of the National Union of Agricultural and Allied Workers have voted by 29,787 to 4,709 to merge with the TGWU. The landworkers will become a national trade group within the union, with a representative on the general executive.

Mr Jack Boddy, general secretary of the 85,000-strong NAAAW, has a seat on the TUC General Council, with TGWU backing.

'Think tank' aims to return to Fabian principles

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

The Tawney Society, a new "think tank" for the Social Democratic Party, was launched yesterday with its founders choosing options that it would contribute to a "ferment of debate" about policy in the new party.

It will perform for the SDP the role which organizations such as the Bow Group carry out for the Conservatives and the Fabian Society for the Labour Party, and not surprisingly, several members

Sabotage query raised by gas protesters

By Hugh Clayton, Environment Correspondent

Opponents of the oil and gas storage plants in Canvey Island complained yesterday that the possibility of sabotage had been left out of official investigations of risk to residents near by.

Mr Conrad Schiemann, QC, leading the case for local councils, said: "All sides agree that deliberate sabotage is a risk, but no one has sought to quantify it. You may feel that this risk alone may be larger than any of the others."

He was speaking on the first day of a resumed public inquiry on the island about the possible closure or restriction of the British Gas methane terminal which reaches out to the Thames Estuary from the south of Canvey.

Sir Bernard Braine, the Conservative MP for Essex, South-East, constituency includes the island, said: "Since this installation has already been the subject of a serious sabotage attempt by the IRA, it is proper for us to point out that the question of sabotage is very real when you have got hazardous installations close to each other and close to a residential area."

He said that the omission of sabotage was one of the failures in an investigation that has led to a safety clearance by the Government's Health and Safety Executive. "There is a wanton disregard of what could happen to the islanders in the event of a major spillage of gas leading to the formation of a vapour cloud."

"Nor is any attention paid to human and psychological reactions in the event of

Heseltine actions 'could deter councillors'

By David Walter

Actions taken by Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, could deter people from standing for election to local councils, Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, said in the Court of Appeal yesterday.

Mr Heseltine had implicitly accused Norwich City councillors of "wilful misconduct" in disobeying the right-to-buy provisions of the Housing Act 1980. Lord Denning said that charge laid them open to surcharge. "If they are going to be sued here, there and everywhere no one would stand as a councillor."

Lord Denning, sitting with Lord Justice May and Lord Justice Kerr, was hearing arguments on behalf of the

New airport 'a boost to population'

By Michael Bailey, Transport Correspondent

An enlarged Stansted airport would attract an extra population of up to 300,000, equivalent to a city the size of Nottingham, a leading planning consultant estimated last night.

That population, however, is unlikely to be housed in a new "jet city" sprawling over 26 square miles of Essex countryside, Mr Ian Fulton told the Regional Studies Association in London. Enlightened planning could ensure that population growth took place in existing towns and cities within reach of Stansted, revitalizing them.

The main ones would be the London districts of Camden, Islington, Lambeth and the towns of Bedford, Corby, Luton, Milton Keynes, Northampton, and Peterborough. "If Stansted was developed fully as London's third airport it would be handling substantially more traffic than Heathrow, 50 million passengers a year, against 38 million by the turn of the century, and would have become Britain's largest employment generator bar none," Mr Fulton said.

With the decline of its main airports Britain had already become an air-trading nation, dependent on an efficient airport system at London for its economic survival. Heathrow, handling 14 per cent of Britain's overseas trade as well as 28 million passengers a year was the 1980s equivalent of the Port of London in the 1880s.

London was a natural focal point for world air routes but to capitalize on future growth airport capacity had to be provided in the right place, Mr Fulton said. Alternatives to Stansted put forward did not fulfil that requirement. Severnside and Mapple were both too far from London, which would continue to be the main traffic generator for international traffic, despite a decline in its domestic population.

For that reason the development of regional airports was not a viable alternative. A fifth terminal at Heathrow was a minimal solution which would not eliminate the need for Stansted eventually, resulting in a higher ultimate cost.

Plaid plans campaign over water charges

From Tim Jones, Cardiff

Plaid Cymru is planning a campaign of civil disobedience aimed at forcing authorities in England to pay more for the water they extract from Welsh reservoirs. From March 1, St David's Day, thousands of Plaid members, including top party officials, will refuse to pay their water rates.

The campaign will be run on similar lines to that which forced the Government to change its mind on the Welsh language television channel. Throughout the campaign the party will be careful to dissociate itself from the extremists who earlier this month planted a bomb outside the Birmingham headquarters of Severn-Trent Water Authority. The submission of beautiful valleys to create reservoirs to supply England had been an emotive issue in the principality and many people not connected with the Welsh Nationalist Party resent paying more for water than is paid in England.

The discontent has been exacerbated by the scrapping of the Water Charges Equalization Act, which redressed some of the difference to the extent of £3m a year. A resident of Blaenau Ffestiniog, with an annual average rainfall of 97in pays 30p in the pound, compared with 14p in the pound paid by a citizen of Birmingham, with 26in a year.

The Welsh Water Authority has asked the Severn-Trent authority to pay £4.5m, three times the present charge, for the water it takes from Welsh reservoirs, but that has been rejected. Mr Nicholas Edwards, Secretary of State for Wales, and Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, are now involved in the dispute.

Those proposals, however, fall far short of Plaid aspirations. The party wants England to pay 20p for every thousand gallons it takes. That could raise £18m and could mean extremely cheap or even free water for the Welsh.

Mr Dafydd Williams, secretary of Plaid Cymru, said yesterday: "It is scandalous that people in Wales pay more for water than is charged in Birmingham. The situation also contributes to our unemployment, as the charges discourage potential investors from moving in."

Mr Elfed Roberts, party organizer for Merioneth, is already refusing to pay his water charges and said he was prepared to go to prison. "The final demand was sent to me in English, so I am ignoring it, but when I receive a demand in Welsh I shall explain that I am taking a stand on a matter of principle," he said.



That floating feeling: Michael Crawford at the Palladium yesterday

The tightrope to success

The musical *Barnum*, starring Michael Crawford as the American showman, Phineas T. Barnum, is to run until February, 1983, making it the longest running show at the London Palladium in the theatre's 72-year history (Christopher Warman writes).

Barnum has broken all records at the Palladium with its circus razzamataz since its opening last June. Yul Brynner in *The King and I* held the previous record, with a 13-month run.

Michael Crawford, who trained for many months for the part and is insured for £3m, walks the high wire, works on the trampoline and trapeze, juggles, tumbles, clowns, sings and dances in what he describes understandingly as the most demanding part he has ever played.

In some 270 performances he has fallen off the high wire only once, but he has had cuts on his feet, blisters, bruises and torn muscles, and remains a stone

below his normal weight. "But I love every minute of it," he said yesterday at a reception to announce the record-breaking run. "I look forward to it every night."

The management nevertheless realizes that the performers, some 50 in all including the band, which marches on to the stage, need a rest. So the show, which has so far taken about £2.5m at the box office, is to close for a month in June so that the entire cast can take a holiday.

Anger at TV royalties demand

By Kenneth Gossling

Independent television companies responded angrily yesterday to a call from the Performing Right Society for more royalties for the use of its members' music.

Mr Michael Freegard, the society's chief executive, said the licence should be based on 1.5 per cent of net advertising revenue. Before the last agreement expired in March, 1980, the companies had been paying a lump sum equivalent to just over 0.5 per cent of their advertising revenue.

A spokesman for the Independent Companies' Association said the matter was still before the Performing Right Tribunal and should therefore be judged. "I do not know what the PRS thinks it is up to," he said. "The society lodged a licence scheme with the tribunal in September, 1980, which provided for a payment of 1.5 per cent of revenue with certain discounts in the early years."

"The companies made application to the tribunal on the basis that the terms were unreasonable and asked them to settle reasonable terms."

Since then the PRS has questioned the jurisdiction of the tribunal to hear the application on the grounds that the companies are not broadcasters.

An interim hearing took place last month and the result is expected within a week.

Independent television and local radio together paid the society £5.8m in royalties in 1980. The BBC paid just over £10m.

A tribunal spokesman said the society could challenge in the High Court its ruling on the question of jurisdiction if the tribunal decided it was, in fact, competent to decide on the terms of the licence.

If it decided it had no jurisdiction, the Independent Broadcasting Authority would inevitably be drawn in. Mr Freegard said he would also be seeking increases in the tariffs for cinemas, pop concerts, discotheques and independent local radio.

Channel Four has commissioned the International Broadcasting Trust to make 22 television programmes

next year in a £500,000 agreement announced yesterday. The trust, formerly the Fourth Channel Development Education Group, says the programmes will look at world development and interdependence.

Its members are a consortium of some 70 voluntary organizations.

Central Independent Television, the commercial company for the Midlands, last night broadcast an apology to Sir Anthony Part, a former Permanent Secretary of the Department of Trade and Industry, over the handling of his contribution to a programme produced by the company's predecessors, ATV.

The programme was broadcast last August in the series, *Rule Britannia*, and took the form of a personal view by the presenter, James Bellini. The apology, the first of its kind by an independent television company, acknowledged that Sir Anthony's contribution was confined to a brief comment about the state of British industry; none of his references to the Civil Service was included.

Shetland poll backs 19-hr ferry

From Jonathan Wills, Lerwick

A plan to extend a subsidized free ferry service run by the Shetland Islands' council has gained overwhelming support in a local referendum. In a 73 per cent poll the 2,500 electors of Yell, Unst, Fetlar, Whalsay and Bressay voted by two-to-one in favour of running the ferries for 19 hours a day.

More than half of those who returned their questionnaires supported the scheme.

Mr James Irvine, transport chairman, said in Lerwick yesterday that the council could find the £325,000 a year needed for the extra ferry service without cuts elsewhere, but it might be necessary to reintroduce passenger fares on the ferries, which have been free for the past three years.

Subsidizing the ferries out of the rates is costing £1.2m a year, and the islands' council is expected to decide next month whether to go ahead with the extended service.

NEWS IN SUMMARY

Man caught in clash of horsepower

Brian Calam's horse-drawn trips around York landed him in trouble with a Victorian law. As he explained the historic architecture to sightseers in the carriage his horse trotted into an oncoming car.

York magistrates were told yesterday that Calam, aged 36, had overtaken a car parked in Goodramgate and into a Ford Fiesta coming the other way.

Mr Michael Taylor, for the defence, said: "The two were both going for the same space at the time. You would have thought that most motorists would have given way to a horse and cart, but not this one."

Calam, of Huntington Road, York, admitted driving a horse-drawn carriage so as to damage a motor car and was fined £10.

Dearer power in South-east

The South Eastern Electricity Board proposes to increase charges by up to 9½ per cent from April 1, according to the electricity consultative council.

They claim they have been told the increase will put 33p on the weekly bills of the average consumer using 900 units of electricity a quarter.

A spokesman for the watchdog group described the increase as "fairly moderate on balance". It was not something they favoured, but below the current inflation rate.

Cartoonist is fined £700

Frank Dickens, the Fleet Street cartoonist, aged 49, of the Barbican, was fined £700 at Horseferry Road magistrates' court yesterday, and banned for four years for driving with excess alcohol in his blood. The court was told he had been drinking heavily for five days after being served with divorce papers. He pleaded guilty.

Cannabis haul

Cannabis valued at £750,000 has been seized by police and customs officials at Avonmouth docks, Bristol. The haul was found in a car on board a ship which was believed to be on its way to Denmark. Several people were arrested aboard.

Dodgem buses

Vandals badly damaged eight buses and lorries when they used them as dodgems at the Wallace School of Driving, in Nottingham, yesterday.

Girl fell to death after gang rape

Miss Cathy Lynch, aged 21, who was haunted by the memory of a gang rape, plunged to her death from a block of high-rise flats last October, two years after her ordeal, an inquest in Liverpool was told yesterday.

Miss Lynch was forced to have sexual intercourse with four intruders who burst into her boy friend's flat Mr Paul Jamieson, his twin brother and another friend were held in an adjoining room while the men raped her one by one, the court heard.

But Miss Lynch hid the secret torment from her parents for two years before she was ashamed to tell them.

Finally she was seen walking from her home with a "vacant look in her eyes" and 15 minutes later police found her badly injured body at the foot of a 14-storey tower block half a mile away.

It was only when police searched Miss Lynch's bedroom at her parents' home in Avondale Road, Wavertree, Liverpool, they discovered her secret.

They found a letter addressed to Mr Paul Jamieson, aged 22, which read: "Why you have not the courage to look me in the eye, I don't know. After all, you have been looking me in the eye for two years, since the time you sat with Chris and Paul in an adjoining room and allowed me to be raped."

Miss Lynch's father, Mr Joseph Lynch, aged 50, a boiler-maker, told the inquest: "Until that letter was opened we had no idea she had been raped. If only we knew what was inside we might have been able to help."

Miss Lynch, was in bed with Mr Paul Jamieson in a first-floor flat at Princess Road, Liverpool, the inquest was told. His twin brother arrived home from a club at 2.45 am with a friend, Mr Christopher Forest, and then four men in their late 30s broke into the flat.

Det Sergeant Peter Royle, who was involved in the hunt for the four rapists, said the intruders claimed they were searching for a man called Eddie after a drugs deal which had gone wrong. "They searched the flat and in doing so went into the room where Cathy and Paul were in bed," he said.



Miss Lynch: Hid her torment for two years

"They pulled back the bedclothes. At this time neither of the couple were wearing any clothes. The four men then left the flat."

They then turned and took it in turns to have sexual intercourse with Miss Lynch against her will, Sergeant Royle said.

Sergeant David Lancaster-Smith said Miss Lynch had been treated by a psychiatrist. She was a possible schizophrenic and drug abuser and was a suicide risk.

Mr Roy Barter, the Merseyside Coroner, who recorded an open verdict, said there was inconclusive evidence to decide whether she fell accidentally or jumped.

□ Detective Constable George Hall, aged 37, accused of rape, who was found dead just before a gas blast wrecked his home, was depressed about the forthcoming case but did not seek help, his commanding officer, Chief Superintendent James Carlin, head of Doncaster police division, said yesterday. Recent publicity about rape had not helped.

Mr Hall, of Queen's Crescent, Bawtry, near Doncaster, was due to appear in court on February 2 accused of rape and assault. He had been suspended from duty. An inquest will open today.

□ Police hunting a rapist who attacked a girl aged 17 who accepted a lift were trying yesterday to trace more than 100 partygoers. But police said they were having difficulties because some of the people at the party, at Barton Mills, near Mildenhall, Suffolk, were unidentified gatecrashers.

Two admit trade in unfit meat

Meat from a knacker's yard, unfit for human consumption, found its way into shoppers' baskets and eventually on to dinner tables, Leicester magistrates were told yesterday.

The health risks involved in eating the meat, some of which bore false stamps of approval, must have been considerable, it was stated.

Health officials found lamb carcasses beside excrement-contaminated horse tails in a freezer at a Bedfordshire butcher's shop. The owner later claimed the tails were for a friend who made rocking horses.

Francis Fensome, aged 56, of Spinney Crescent, Dunstable, Bedfordshire, and Peter Fletcher, aged 41, of Stuart Street, Dunstable, were remanded on bail for four weeks for reports after admitting handling meat unfit for, but intended for, human consumption.

The men, who had a butcher's shop in Bedford Road, Houghton Regis, also admitted failing to take adequate steps to protect meat from the risk of contamination and other cleanliness and hygiene offences.

Mr Hugh Mayor, prosecuting for South Bedfordshire district council, said meat sold for human consumption must come from a licensed slaughterhouse and be inspected and stamped by a council official.

Meat from knacker's yards where tuberculosis and anthrax were often found, must be sterilized and never sold for human consumption.

The court was told that Fletcher began buying meat from a knacker's yard at Wigston, near Leicester, in August, 1979, when he was in partnership with Fensome, trading as Spinney Butchers at Houghton Regis.

In February, 1980, Fletcher began to supply meat to a wholesale butcher in London Road, Aspley, Bedfordshire. Eventually, environmental health officers became suspicious and watched the yard at Wigston. Fletcher's van was seen outside and later followed to Dunstable, where meat was seen being carried into his shop.

Some of that meat was taken later to the wholesale butchers at Aspley. A magistrate was called and the meat ordered to be condemned.

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Pay warning for 'ineffective' Telecom staff

By Paul Roudledge, Labour Editor

British Telecom has disclosed that its field engineers average only three visits a day, less than half the figure achieved in the United States and up to half their time is spent "ineffectively".

Pay rises for 250,000 employees will be "extremely difficult to justify" this year, the state enterprise says.

In a "state of the business" message to management and some union officials, Sir George Jefferson, British Telecom chairman, points a picture of serious overmanning, inflexible work practices, luxurious office accommodation and staff being paid more than their work deserves.

But he admits: "Management must bear the responsibility for most of what is wrong — and for putting it right, with the help of unions and staff". Otherwise British Telecom would be in a weak position to face competition, he insists.

Revealing that BT's running costs rose at double last year's rate of inflation, Sir George points out that staff levels and wages grew by 18 per cent in 1979-80 and by 31 per cent in 1980-81. "Far outstripping growth" which is expected to decline from 4.6 per cent last year to 3.5 per cent in 1981-82.

In a catalogue of labour inefficiency, the chairman complains of:

- Out-of-date methods of work; over 40 per cent of time spent on paperwork.
- Inter-union arguments on operating computer terminals in mixed clerical/engineering areas.
- Time-wasting in putting in telephones. "For every two hours spent on installation in the field, one hour is spent in control, line plant allocations and replacements."
- "The number of survey officers has remained unchanged for 20 years, although the need for them has reduced. In the United States, AT & T installation and maintenance staff average seven visits a day, compared with our average of three."
- Ineffective time still represents 40 per cent of the cost of external works.
- Excessive manning levels in telephone exchange maintenance.

that could be cut by better work organization.

"Grade drift" — people being paid a grade or so higher than their work deserves. More than 70 per cent of maintenance men in conventional Strower exchanges are graded as telecommunications officers, the top of the manual scale, when "the figures should be nearer 50 per cent."

Those problems, Sir George goes on, are compounded by demarcation difficulties, inflexible work practices, rigidity on manning levels and slowness to accept change.

"It all amounts to a situation in which it should be extremely difficult to justify increasing pay next year."

"Not that I am attacking high wages as such. But they must be justified by high output, and we will have to place greater emphasis on performance, rather than purity or preservation of differences."

He also discloses that there are "many other ways" in which the "business over-spends. For example, telephone headquarters staff had grown by more than 10 per cent, to more than 25,000, since 1978. There were some 8,000 regional headquarters staff, "to say nothing of area HQs."

Furthermore, they enjoyed "over-generous accommodation, compared with commercial firms, particularly with so many HQ staff in London". Staff also enforced uneconomic substitution rules, regardless of availability of competent junior staff on the spot, and there were "slow and expensive promotion and appointments procedures, with seniority often more influential than merit."

Sir George has told the management to put their house in order, and gives a warning: "I cannot guarantee that there will never be redundancies. This will depend on the success of the business and how effective we are in making the necessary changes."

Left-winger to carry on Scargill tradition

From Ronald Kershaw, Barnsley

Yorkshire miners have voted overwhelmingly for a left-wing area president to succeed Mr Arthur Scargill when he takes over as national president of the National Union of Mineworkers in April.

Mr Jack Taylor, vice-president of Yorkshire NUM, collected 28,148 votes in a 66 per cent poll, some 19,000 more than his nearest rival, Mr John Walsh, the union's moderate North Yorkshire area agent, who had 9,125. Mr John Stones, polled 3,962 votes and Mr Albert Barlow 1,752.

Mr Taylor made clear that he would continue the policies advocated by Mr Scargill, who expressed delight and observed that Mr Taylor was not only a close friend but also "a man who shares my views of what this union is all about."

He said: "I am sure the combination of a national president and the president of the Yorkshire miners working together will be infinitely better than a president of the Yorkshire miners fighting on behalf of the union and a national president sabotaging the union," a reference to the intervention of Mr Joseph Gormley, retiring president, in the recent wages ballot.

Mr Taylor, who is 52, has been a mineworker since he was 14 and held all the



Handing over: Mr Arthur Scargill (right) with Jack Taylor, his successor as Yorkshire's NUM president

principal offices at Manvers main colliery branch, South Yorkshire, before becoming area vice-president. He likes golf and serious music and supports Sheffield United, but does not shout about it.

Mr Taylor said he would continue increasing the union's participation in political matters. "If we need to be political to defend our members' living standards, then we will be political."

Mr Taylor proposes to continue the Yorkshire area policy of holding miners' caucus meetings to attract union members to the right place at the right time for subsequent Labour Party

meetings. He also made clear that MPs sponsored by the union would be expected to reflect the Yorkshire area's attitude in the policies.

"The policies of this union are made by the members and I shall carry out the progressive policies we have carried out over the last three years," he said.

He would work with Mr Scargill and other area officials to bring the NUM under one umbrella. Of Mr Scargill he said: "We genuinely believe in the same ends. As to achieving those ends, my methods might be different but I think we will sort it out one way or another."

Mr Walsh said yesterday that he felt that some objection to the ballot procedure was due on behalf of members, although he always accepted ballot results. He said members were asked to vote for officials when they knew nothing about their policies. He felt the union should have organized meetings to allow all the candidates to explain where they stood on various issues.

He said that Mr Taylor had a head start because he had appeared with Mr Scargill on platforms speaking in the wages debate and had received much exposure in the Yorkshire Miner newspaper.

"I consider it was unfair on the membership, not on the candidates," Mr Walsh said.

Mr Taylor's reaction was that the option of speaking at various meetings was open to Mr Walsh and any other candidate. Mr Scargill denied any suggestion that the election had not been fair. It had been conducted on the same lines as every other election.

"It has not been a closed election. It has been a perfectly proper election. If any candidate is invited to speak by any organization, he is entitled to attend. What is not allowed is written propaganda."

Crack shot admits poaching charge

From a Correspondent King's Lynn

One of Britain's top marksmen admitted poaching when he appeared at King's Lynn yesterday.

Christopher Jary aged 18, of Tennyson Avenue, Kings Lynn, one of this country's brightest prospects in the next Olympics, was fined £75. His solicitor asked the magistrates to allow him to keep the gun and his shotgun certificate so that he could continue his intensive training for the 1984 Olympics. Sergeant Ivan Jordan for the prosecution said Jary had been seen speeding. An officer saw him throw something heavy over a hedge and when he investigated he found a Browning 12 bore shotgun, worth £600. In the back of the car he saw six cock pheasants and numerous 12-bore cartridges.

Mr Ben Pearson, for the defence, said Jary had been talking about the new shooting season and he got overenthusiastic. He went out in broad daylight.

Mr Pearson added that Jary had to practice every day and if his shotgun certificate was lost it would jeopardise his place in the squad. "His future is in your hands," he told the magistrates, who ordered the pheasants and cartridges to be forfeited. They decided that the gun would not be confiscated.

How can you take seven jobs in 25 years and stay with the same company?



Protest on smoking publicity

By Annabel Ferriman Health Service Correspondent

Westminster City Council has started allowing cigarette manufacturers to advertise their products on parking meters. For this facility the council is guaranteed a minimum £10,000 a year revenue.

Its decision was condemned yesterday as disgraceful by Sir Douglas Black, president of the Royal College of Physicians, and Dr Keith Taylor, director-general of the Health Education Council.

Dr Taylor said: "The fact that any official body is willing to adopt this strategy for any amount of money is outrageous when the dangers of smoking are so well-known. It will bring closer the day we make cigarette advertising illegal."

Mr Roland Moyle, Labour MP for Lewisham, East, and a former Labour health spokesman, who said he was appalled at the decision, has written to Dr Gerard Vaughan, Minister for Health, to complain.

He says in his letter: "I regard this practice by the Westminster City Council as deplorable on the part of anybody, but particularly appalling when undertaken by a body which has health responsibilities to the public in general."

He asks Dr Vaughan to approach the local government associations to draw up an agreement which would stop "tobacco sponsorship by local government."

Mr Moyle has also complained to the city council. Mr David Witty, the council's chief executive, has replied that the council's contractor would ensure that the advertisements conformed to the Advertising Standards Authority's code of practice.

The council said yesterday: "The advertising of cigarettes is permitted on outdoor media, and as long as it is, I do not see why we should ban it". The rates charged vary from £1.25 to £2 a week.

Hungarian hero rests in peace

From Our Correspondent Ludlow

Hungarian emigrés in Britain have won a long battle to ensure that the remains of their national hero should lie undisturbed in a Herefordshire country churchyard.

Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, has told the Hungarian Ambassador that he will not allow the communist regime to exhume General Lazar Meszaros, who has come to symbolize Hungary's fight for freedom from oppression.

General Meszaros was defence minister and commander-in-chief of the Hungarian army defeated by the invading Austrian and Russian forces in 1848-49. He fled to Britain and died at Tuttle, near Kington, north Herefordshire, in 1858.

Mr Peter Temple-Morris, the Conservative MP for Ludlow, has disclosed that the Hungarian Government refused to accept a ruling by the Home Secretary in 1980 that General Meszaros could not be exhumed for reburial in Budapest. Two more applications have been made and Mr Temple-Morris says expatriate Hungarians feared Hungary's communist government would use "back door methods" to achieve the exhumation.

Mr Temple-Morris protested to the Home Office and the Foreign Office, and has been told by Lord Trefgarne, Parliamentary under-secretary of state at the Foreign Office, that Mr Whitelaw has given a final "no" to the Hungarian government. Lord Trefgarne said Mr Whitelaw would need "new and compelling evidence" to reopen the case.

The Hungarian Freedom Fighters Federation in Britain, the Mindzenty Foundation (UK) and the general's last living relative, a great niece living in New York, had all opposed exhumation.

The general's grave has become a shrine and a service is to be held on March 15 each year.

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I went on courses myself. The work at the IBM Greenock factory kept changing and so did my interests. From sub-assemblies I went into quality control. First as an inspector to look for what was wrong and then as an analyst to understand

why things sometimes go wrong. Then I tried personnel, and I moved into management. That's seven jobs in all.

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Part of my job is to encourage people. There are procedures to make sure that people don't get neglected or overlooked.

It's more competitive in the company now than when I started. That's because technology demands better skills than it used to. But, if a young person were to join us today, I could truthfully tell him or her that there's every chance of having as varied and interesting a career as I've had.

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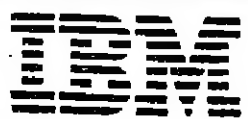
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Skinhead killed rival fan

A skinhead football supporter whose punch killed a young Leeds supporter was jailed for three years at the Central Criminal Court yesterday. Keith Wilks, aged 19, a warehouseman, of Manor Road, Tottenham, north London, was convicted of manslaughter of Jeremy Burton, aged 18, who died in hospital from a fractured skull and brain damage.

Judge Charles Lawson, QC, told Wilks: "You indulged yourself in the sort of despicable violence that every decent citizen condemns. Because of what you did another young life was wasted."

The judge added that he had to make clear to other football hooligans that they

could expect condign punishment. He hoped the death would be on Wilks's conscience for the rest of his life.

Miss Ann Curnow, for the prosecution, said Jeremy Burton, of Brearcliffe Drive, Bradford, and other Leeds supporters were making their way to a match at White Hart Lane on February 7 last when they were ambushed by Wilks and a gang of Tottenham youths, who rushed at them from a council estate.

The youth was felled by a blow to the jaw which sent him crashing to the roadway striking his head. He died four days later.

Wilks said he acted in self-defence when attacked by Leeds supporters.

NEWS IN SUMMARY

US used defoliants in Laos

New York.—In the middle of a campaign by the United States to draw attention to Soviet use of chemical warfare in Afghanistan, Cambodia and Laos comes a disclosure that the Americans conducted secret raids into Laos to spray herbicides in the jungle and in food growing areas (Michael Hamlyn writes).

The disclosure comes in and official Air Force history which has been obtained under the Freedom of Information Act. It makes it clear that raids into Laos, and the openly undertaken spraying in Vietnam were only authorized at the highest levels.

The defoliants used on Laos are not specified in the history, but it does say that generally in South-East Asia the Air Force used combinations of phenoxy herbicides including Agent Orange. Vietnam veterans claim that Agent Orange has been responsible for liver damage, nervous disorders, birth defects in their children and cancer.

Plea for peace in Eritrea

Nairobi.—Lieutenant Colonel Mengistu Haile Mariam, the Ethiopian leader, who called yesterday on the Eritrean secessionists who have been fighting for independence from Ethiopia for 20 years to "forget the past and join hands with the Ethiopian masses".

Dozier shown with beard

Rome.—The Red Brigades released a photograph of General Dozier, the kidnapped American, informed sources said. The communique, the fifth since the kidnapping of General Dozier from his home in Verona on December 17, and the photograph showing him with a long beard, was found in Rome after a telephone call to the *Giornale d'Italia*.

Crash Boeing lost speed

Washington.—The Air Florida Boeing 737 which crashed here killing 78 people took 15 seconds longer than the normal half-minute to take off (Nicholas Hirst writes).

Khmer Rouge reject coalition

Singapore.—The Khmer Rouge has rejected Singapore's proposal for a loose coalition of Cambodians opposed to the Vietnamese presence, Mr Ieng Sary, its Foreign Minister, has written to the Association of South-East Asian Nations (Asean) rejecting the proposals put to them two months ago.

Bani-Sadr's helpers arrested in Iran

A number of Mujahedin guerrillas have been arrested in Iran in connection with the escape to France last July of former president Bani-Sadr. The Islamic Republic News Agency said that the guerrillas had infiltrated an air force base to help Mr Bani-Sadr and Mr Masoud Rajavi the Mujahedin leader to flee.

Poland: Brussels talks; Warsaw Pact exercise; resistance group

EEC seeks credit squeeze on Moscow

From Ian Murray, Brussels, Jan 25

European foreign ministers were seeking tonight an agreement on a credit squeeze on the Soviet Union to underline their protest about Moscow's involvement in establishing military rule in Poland.

During their informal meeting in Brussels, the EEC ministers discussed recommending the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development to increase the export credit rate available to the Soviet Union for its purchases from the West. This would mean upgrading the Soviet Union from an "intermediate" to a "relatively rich country" within the organizations definitions.

It would increase the cost of Soviet loans of up to five years from 10.5 per cent to 11 per cent and for long term loans from 11 per cent to 11.25 per cent. This could put up the cost to the Soviet Union of funding the controversial gas pipeline from Siberia to West Germany by £300m a year in interest charges.

Poland was only discussed briefly during the foreign ministers' informal meeting, but Greece did indicate that it was not entirely happy about the sanctions idea. Greece is expected to voice its disapproval more formally during tomorrow's regular session of the Council of Ministers.

Tomorrow's meeting is also likely to approve a Commission proposal that £18m set aside for subsidizing food prices for Poland should be made available for charities bringing humanitarian aid to the Polish people. There will also be a review of work carried out by technical experts of the Commission into the effect of imposing import restrictions on Soviet goods.

Officials monitoring today's meeting felt that there was insufficient progress during discussions about Poland for any complete package of European sanctions to be ready in the near future. A further discussion on the package is to be held by officials at Nato on Wednesday and it will be subject to a further review at Nato again a week later.

Vienna: Ground and air forces of three Warsaw pact

countries today began a five-day exercise in western Czechoslovakia (David Blow writes). The exercise, which is codenamed Druzba 82, involves 25,000 troops from Czechoslovakia, Hungary and the Soviet Union.

The officially stated purpose is to rehearse combined procedures for repelling an attack from the West in winter conditions. Nato sources in Brussels said that the manoeuvres were of no special significance.

Warsaw: Fugitive Solidarity activists have set up an all-Poland resistance steering committee to coordinate industrial protests (Roger Boyes writes). According to a communique that has reached Western correspondents, members of the Solidarity National Commission still at large met on January 13 to discuss tactics in future underground actions.

The committee rejected government attempts to form a new, non-political trade union and said that their group would act as an

interim organization until Solidarity was allowed to reemerge in its old form. The communique gave three conditions that would have to be met before they would agree to a new union: an end to martial law, the release of all interned and a firm and enduring commitment to dialogue with Solidarity.

The communique was unsigned and it is not clear who took part in the meeting though it said that all members of the Solidarity National Commission at large were present. According to preliminary reports, 90 out of 107 members were rounded up in the initial police raid in Gdansk on the night martial law was declared.

Some have been arrested subsequently. The most senior member of the union still free is Mr Zbigniew Bujak, head of the Warsaw region, who presumably attended the meeting. The leader of the new organization was codenamed Miesko, the first king of Poland, in the tenth century.

Although all attempts to regroup Solidarity have been underground, their statements have been surprisingly moderate. The letter from the Cracow underground Solidarity addressed to the Pope, for example, explicitly renounced the use of violence.

The all-Poland communique did not do this but, its three stated conditions for the resumption of dialogue with the Government are not



Father and child walking in Warsaw: Martial law may be lifted by the end of February, General Jaruzelski said yesterday; but he emphasized it would be extended if the authorities faced serious opposition

Journalist freed

Mr Greg Miskiw, the Sunday Mirror journalist who spent Christmas and New Year in a Polish jail on charges of entering the country illegally, is being permitted to return to London today or tomorrow after paying bail of £5,000, consular officials said in Warsaw. The bail was set pending the outcome of his appeal against a suspended sentence and fine.

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dissimilar to views being expressed by Polish bishops. Budapest: Hungary is apprehensive about the repercussions the Polish crisis has had on East-West relations and might have on the domestic situation (Dessa Trevisan writes).

The need for a closing of ranks within the Soviet bloc could make it more difficult to maintain liberal policies at home. Hungary had adopted a flexible attitude to developments in Poland before the imposition of martial law but is now in tune.

Berlin: East Germany today issued the Warsaw Pact's most explicit denial that the Polish Government told its allies in advance that martial law was being imposed (Reuters reports).

An editorial in *Neues Deutschland*, the East German Communist Party newspaper, said: "The Polish United Workers' (Communist) Party did not once consult or inform the governments of their allies in the affair. Nor did they need to."

US preparing for war, Russian general says

Moscow, Jan 25.—Soviet defence chiefs in an unprecedented break with tradition, held a press conference today to launch their published reply to a Pentagon booklet on the Kremlin's military strength.

General Valentin Varennikov, First Deputy Chief of the Soviet General Staff, met Soviet and foreign reporters to introduce *Whence the threat to peace*, an 80-page booklet published by the Soviet Defence Ministry for distribution abroad.

The booklet, dealing with the American armed forces, is closely modelled on the United States Defence Department's booklet *Soviet military power* published last September in Washington. Using information supplied

by what are described as "competent Soviet organs" as well as American publications and the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies, it is presented as a true picture of the East-West military balance. It uses colour pictures from American Publications of United States weapons such as the Trident nuclear submarine, the B1 bomber and the cruise missile.

General Varennikov told the press conference that the United States had originated all modern weapons systems, forcing the Soviet Union to follow suit. "We had to react to the military threat posed by the United States and deploy the necessary weapons on our side," he said.—Reuters.



Rudolf Nureyev, the Russian born dancer who defected in 1961, receiving his certificate of Austrian citizenship from Herr Leopold Gratz, Mayor of Vienna, yesterday.

Crew 'lied about attack'

By Our Foreign Staff

Japanese maritime safety officials have accused members of the crew of a Japanese chemical tanker of lying about a recent attack on their vessel by Philippines air force fighters.

The 5,307 ton tanker, the *Hegs*, was strafed off Mindanao Island in the southern Philippines 10 days ago. A cook was seriously wounded.

According to the Kyodo news agency, Mr Hideo Takamura, the captain of the *Hegs*, and the 21 other crew originally told maritime safety officials that the ship had been flying the Japanese flag when it was strafed and the no warning to stop had been received.

However, after subsequent investigation the safety authority had concluded that both

these statements were false. Its officials believed that the ship's owner, Kitanihon Oil Kasei Company, had persuaded the crew to lie "so that negotiations on compensation for damage caused by the strafing could be conducted to the advantage of the company", Kyodo claimed.

The news agency added that the officials plan to question Mr Chikazo Suzuki, the president of the company, who has denied that he instructed the crew to make any false statements.

UN death leap

New York.—Mr Johannes Raven, aged 57, an American staff member of the United Nations secretariat, jumped to his death from the window of his eighteenth-floor office.

Mitterrand's Soviet gas deal attacked

Paris, Jan 25.—Criticism was mounting today over the big French gas contract with the Soviet Union announced yesterday, as France approached agreement with Algeria on a similar deal.

Industry sources said "the state firm Gaz de France (GDF) was on the verge of signing a two-year deal for 15 billion cubic metres of gas a year from 1984, would confirm for the Polish people that 'they have nothing left to hope for from the West except for a few charitable gestures'."

The normally pro-socialist newspaper, *Le Monde*, pointed out that Mitterrand's government has been one of the most outspoken among the Western allies in its condemnation of martial law in Poland, and has held the Soviet Union responsible.

Poland's *Pravda* said that Mitterrand and his ministers had decided that France needed the Soviet gas for economic reasons and resolved to go ahead with the contract, while emphasizing that it had no bearing on France's overall position towards the Kremlin.

Critical press commentators suggested today that this was in the tradition of French governments since President de Gaulle established the country's "privileged" relationship with Moscow over 20 years ago.

The sources said that M. Jacques Delors, the finance minister, was expected to give a public explanation of the gas decision within the next few days. In the only public comment so far by a member of government, M. Jacques Delors, the finance minister, said last night that the gas deal, which follows a similar contract between Moscow and West Germany last year, reflected France's desire to diversify its energy sources.

Total Algerian and Soviet gas imports will represent about 10 per cent of the country's energy needs in 1980, according to *Gaz de France* statistics.—Reuters.

Le Monde said that the

Gaullist resurgence

Emphasis on new men and ideals for France

From Charles Hargrove, Toulouse, Jan 25

Something is obviously beginning to change in the French political scene. The movement, after years of wear and tear of power.

This change, together with the party's rediscovered unity (after the internal clashes caused by Giscardism) and the firm conviction that it is now the spearhead of the opposition, was the hallmark of the party's weekend congress in Toulouse. It showed conspicuously in the meeting's setting, its style and its speeches.

The old Gaullist Party is turning into a younger, close knit, dynamic party, rid to a large extent of its trailing clouds of glory and of its ageing potentates, which M. Jacques Chirac, the Mayor of Paris, and his bright young men now have well in hand. M. Chirac's overwhelming reelection as president at the Toulouse Congress with 99.15 per cent of the vote, shows this.

The emphasis was on new men, a new ideal and new methods including the use of one of the foremost marketing experts in France, combined with loyalty to the fundamental principles of Gaullism. It is not surprising if the change did not entirely come off. It is a difficult one, and will take time.

But old hands from past Gaullist congresses noted that the traditional "high mass" with set speeches by party "barons" and notables, to which the rank and file merely said "Amen", was giving way, partly at least, to something in which more room was being given to the younger generation of party workers.

These are men like M. Jacques Toubon, the brilliant and ebullient youthful Paris deputy who is Opposition hero of the parliamentary battle on nationalization. He proclaimed: "Here and now, Frenchmen have entered

Year One of post-Mitterrandism." But at the same time he urged the 15,000 delegates and militants that "rationality and serenity" must govern the party's behaviour.

Symbolic of the change at this congress was a tricolour abstract by a well-known painter, Moret, representing "France in movement" and adorning either side of a huge Kremlin-like rostrum.

Gone were the portraits of General de Gaulle and the Cross of Lorraine. Instead, the party's new slogan: "Freedom, Nation, Progress", was much in evidence and among those using the slogan, there was a majority of the younger leaders of the party with a new, refreshingly direct and frank approach, both to its problems and its opportunities.

One of the most striking innovations was the organization of discussion groups on means of day-to-day democracy, such as: "The school of tomorrow", "Who speaks in the name of the worker?", "Bureaucracy, a creeping disease" and: "What use is the family?" Ordinary militants could, and did, speak up, criticizing party policy and leadership and calling for more drive and concern for down-to-earth problems.

The discussion groups, held together in a huge exhibition hall, next to the one where the congress proper took place, were rather a flop technically, degenerating into an impenetrable hubbub of voices amplified by loudspeakers.

But they were a convincing exercise in party democracy, designed to convey the impression of a dynamic, popular movement, with strong grassroots, which was embarking on a new resistance to the old establishment.

One and this time against socialism.

Grain flop threatens livestock

Moscow, Jan 25.—The Soviet Union's grain harvest last year may have been well below Western forecasts, and could lead to the slaughter of livestock because of fodder shortages, Western agricultural experts said here today.

The 1981 economic results published on Saturday had shown that in almost everything but cotton it had been one of the worst years for Soviet agriculture since 1964.

For the first time in many years the authorities failed to print figures for the grain harvest. This "seems to indicate that the figure is in fact painfully below the 175 million tonnes mark" predicted by the United States Department of Agriculture, the experts said.

Now it might be necessary to slaughter some livestock. This was the third poor harvest in a row, and the previous two years had left very few fodder reserves.

Transport facilities limited grain imports to 43 million tonnes, and most of that would be needed for people.

DRIVE BY LISBON FOR EEC ENTRY

From Richard Wigg, Lisbon, Jan 25

Senhor Francisco Pinto Balsemão, the Portuguese Prime Minister, is in Brussels today at the start of an "offensive" to ensure his country enters the EEC early in 1984 regardless of what happens about Spain. The initiative will take him round all the EEC capitals.

Both Portugal and Spain have long ago had a conviction that they would be the first. Both within a few months made their formal applications almost five years ago.

What is worrying Lisbon is that the growing resistance to Spanish membership both inside Spain and among some Community countries will throw into limbo the grand design of "joining to which all Portugal's democratic parties are committed."

Much Portuguese effort is being spent on resisting any lumping together of this country's entry negotiations with those of Spain.

Additional elements of suspicion between the two Iberian capitals concerns Spain joining Nato.

NEWS IN SUMMARY

Kenya MP shot dead in ambush

Nairobi. — Gunmen shot dead Mr Alex Isako Umuro, a Kenya MP, when they ambushed his car in a remote area of northern Kenya yesterday, the official Kenya News Agency reported.

It quoted a survivor of the dusk attack as saying that eight men in army uniforms and with rifles fired a flare and then poured a hail of bullets into the MP's car. One survivor, Mr Bundi Muriani, said the MP died instantly. Six other passengers in the vehicle fled unhurt into the bush.

The incident took place near Marsabit, 250 miles north of Nairobi in Kenya's north-eastern province, scene of bandit activity in recent years.

Former slave dies aged 119

Bunnell, Florida. — Mr Ike Ward, a woodcutter born a slave on a Virginia plantation on Christmas Day 1862, when Abraham Lincoln was president, died here aged 119, one day after he entered a nursing home for the first time.

He was married 16 times and outlived all his wives. For the past five years he was looked after by Miss Rachel Hall, a 62-year-old cousin. He had worked, ploughing his own one-acre plot, until two weeks ago. He was always in perfect health, never used a walking stick or wore glasses.

\$50m scheme to save Sahel

Praia, Cape Verde Islands. — General Moussa Traore, the Malian head of state, has complained that after an initial burst of enthusiasm, the world's rich countries had lost interest in saving West Africa's Sahel region from drought and desertification.

He spoke after a meeting of an eight-nation committee which decided to build up emergency food stocks for the region.

The \$50m plan, backed by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, will be finalized in Rome in March between the Sahel states and Western donor countries.

Vote on Koivisto as President

Helsinki. — Finland's Council of Electors will meet today to confirm Dr Mauno Koivisto's election as the country's next president.

The electors theoretically can vote up to three times, but Mr Koivisto, who is 57, is certain to receive more than the 151 votes needed for victory in the 301-strong Council of Electors in the first round. He controls 145 Social Democratic and independent electors and the 22 electors of the Communist party's Euro-Communist wing have decided to vote for him. A moderate Social Democrat, he will be Finland's first Socialist President.

Belgian pirates jam air waves

Brussels. — Angry Belgian radio pirates have begun a war of the air waves by jamming output from the national French language network in Brussels (Jan Murray writes). They were protesting against the seizure by police last week of broadcasting equipment used by four illicit stations.

The Belgian Independent Radio Group used vans with jamming equipment which toured the capital.

Court told of £300m traffic in heroin

Palermo. — Seventy-six alleged Mafia heroin traffickers were sent for trial here charged with criminal association, trafficking in illegal drugs and other crimes.

Signor Giovanni Falcone, the investigating magistrate, said heroin traded through Sicily to the United States had made the group about \$600m (nearly £300m).

Miro leaves hospital

Palma de Mallorca. — Joan Miro, the Spanish painter, aged 89, left hospital after two weeks during which he had a pacemaker fitted.

Six die in crashes

Parma. — Six people died and 39 were injured in car crashes in the fog on the motorway known as the "Superhighway of the Sun" near here in northern Italy.

Egypt takes first step to better Soviet relations

From Our Correspondent, Cairo, Jan 25

The announcement by Egypt that 66 Soviet technicians will be coming to Egypt is the first big step towards normalizing relations between the countries, now at an all-time low.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman told *The Times* that the technicians had been requested by industrial sectors which were set up with Soviet assistance in the 1960s. That was the time of the Soviet-Egyptian honeymoon which came to a sudden halt when the then President Sadat expelled 17,000 military advisers.

Mr Sadat took a second harsh stand against Moscow in September a month before his assassination, when he expelled the Soviet Ambassador and six top diplomats on the grounds that they were fomenting Christian-Muslim strife.

Seven hundred technicians working on the Aswan High Dam, the Helwan iron and steel complex and the aluminium factory in Upper Egypt were also ejected.

Mr Kamal Hassan Ali, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, told *The Times* the technicians would be returning "only for a specific period — to install equipment that had been contracted for before they were expelled".

They would be continuing the original terms of the contracts. He did not know how long they would stay or when they would start arriving.

Egypt did not expect to exchange ambassadors with Moscow soon, despite speculation to the contrary. "It will not be in the near future, but, of course, when you sever relations with a country it cannot also last forever. At present the issue has not been studied", he said.

The possibly improving ties with Moscow would not affect relations with the United States. "Our relations with the United States are very, very close and there is no intention of modifying this except to make them even better", he said.

The return of the technicians comes after a number of signs of improving relations in the past week. Cairo's approval to two more diplomats to join the 32-man Soviet mission here, reports that trade between the two countries may increase by between 18 and 20 per cent, and today's report that a trade mission is visiting Moscow for negotiations.

President Hosni Mubarak, Mr Sadat's successor, in an interview published this weekend with a German magazine said returning relations to ambassadorial level was inevitable in principle.

Mr Mubarak is to meet Mr Alexander Haig, United States Secretary of State, to discuss means of promoting the stalled Palestinian autonomy talks, and his expected trip to the United States, France, Britain and West Germany next week.

A diplomat said: "The President's trip has no relation to the return of the Soviets. Egypt is not playing East against West as some may be led to deduce." The specialists were needed in factories.

Gulf plans policy for defence

Jiddah, Jan 25. — Arab defence ministers of the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council opened two days of talks today intended to coordinate defence policy in the area.

As the discussions began two leading Saudi daily newspapers pinpointed Iran as the main threat to stability in the area, and called for the assembly of a strike force to combat the threat posed by Islamic fundamentalist leaders.

The ministers from Bahrain, Oman, Qatar, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates met in Riyadh, the Saudi capital, the official Saudi Press Agency said.

They were asked by their heads of state last November to define priorities for ensuring the independence and sovereignty of member states, who produce about 11.5 million barrels of oil daily. They are expected to study recommendations by their chiefs of staff for joint air defence systems, arms procurement policies and armament plants.

The council was formed last May to face what the six states saw as threats from the Soviet military presence in Afghanistan, the Iranian revolution and the Iraq-Iran war.

Prince Sultan bin Abdulaziz the Saudi Defence Minister was quoted by the Saudi-based Arab news agency as saying that the ministers were opposed to arms standardization, "because the idea of depending on a single source of weapons is rejected".

The six, whose defence budget this year comes to about \$15,000m, buy arms mainly from the United States, Britain and France.

Gaddafi mystery in Tunisia

Tunis, Jan 25. — Colonel Gaddafi, the Libyan leader is reported to have left Tunisia by road for Libya after meeting Mr Muhammad Mzali, the Prime Minister, and other ministers during a surprise visit to Tunisia.

Relations between the two countries are strained and politicians and diplomats were surprised when Colonel Gaddafi arrived unannounced from Algiers on Saturday night. President Habib Bourguiba is in the United States for medical treatment and Mr Mzali was on a tour of southern Tunisia.

Tunisian officials appeared to be embarrassed by the visit although it is believed that Colonel Gaddafi had sent word from Algiers that he intended to return to Libya by road through Tunisia.

The officials said that Colonel Gaddafi's talks held in the southern town of Gabes with Mr Mzali and the Tunisian ministers for the economy, planning, the interior and justice were cordial and relaxed, but gave no other details.

Relations between Libya and Tunisia have been strained since Colonel Gaddafi's attempt to merge the two countries was rejected by President Bourguiba only a few hours after they both agreed to the plan in January, 1974.

Relations were severed when Libyan-trained Tunisian guerrillas attacked the southern mining town of Gafsa in January, 1980.

The two countries are also in conflict over the limits of the potentially oil-rich continental shelf between them. They have put this dispute before the International Court at The Hague which is expected to deliver its verdict next month.

Nimeiry rides the storm in Sudan

By Andrew Lycett

Sir James Robertson, one of the last and most respected British administrators in Sudan, once said that the Sudanese political scene was like a powder keg with a lit fuse.

President Jaafar Nimeiry, is neither. He is a tough, competent soldier who against all odds has governed the largest and potentially most divisive country in Africa for over 12 years.

Earlier this month it seemed President Nimeiry's knack of shuffling the political cards in Sudan and still remaining on top of the pack might be deserting him. Riots swept Khartoum and provincial cities in the wake of the President's decision to raise sugar prices by more than 60 per cent. There were also reported disturbances in the South after the detention of prominent regional politicians.

Since then the atmosphere has cooled. The death last weekend of Sherif el-Hindi, leader of the Sudanese opposition movement in exile, failed to incite insurrection in Khartoum. President Nimeiry scored something of a public relations coup by announcing the death of his adversary himself on Sudanese radio.

In another move, President Nimeiry also yesterday dissolved the top levels of the Sudanese Socialist Union (SSU), the country's sole legal political party and launched a sweeping internal

President Nimeiry's somewhat battered base of support is standing firm. The economy may be bad and the South, for a long time a strong source of backing for the President's regime, may be drifting apart and away from him.

But the Army, recently fortified with handsome pay rises, is sticking with him, and so for the moment is the rising strand of Islamic fundamentalism represented in the Cabinet by the Attorney General, Dr Hassan al-Turabi, and Abdel Rahman Ahmed, the Interior Minister.

This support comes with political strings attached. Islam has a powerful emotional appeal in the country of the Mahdi. Today various political-religious clans, such as the Ansar and Khatmiyah, are competing strongly with the Muslim Brotherhood for the religious constituency.

Muslim politicians in the North would like to break the power of the South to block such cherished ambitions as making Sudan an Islamic state. This explains, in part at least, the Government's scheme to divide the South into three separate regions, and the subsequent fits and starts in recent weeks.

There is also political pressure on President Nimeiry to adopt less stridently pro-Western attitudes, and this partly explains his rapprochement with Chad.

It is on the economy,



Warsaw Pact winter exercises begin

Carrington attacked Britain upsets both Israel and PLO

From Edward Mortimer, Beirut, Jan 25

A British Foreign Secretary's lot is not a happy one, or not in the Middle East anyway. In Israel Lord Carrington is likely to encounter demonstrations by Israelis infuriated by what they regard as his "undisguised support for many of the aims of the Palestine Liberation Organization".

Yet at PLO offices in Beirut the visiting British journalist is greeted by a barrage of complaints about Lord Carrington's performance, particularly during the second half of last year, when he was President of the EEC Council of Ministers.

The complaints were voiced with particular earnestness, more in sorrow than in anger, by Dr Ahmad Sidqi al-Dajani, the PLO executive member responsible for European Arab dialogue.

When Britain assumed the EEC presidency in July, Dr Dajani said in an interview that the Arabs were optimistic about Lord Carrington's personality, but the six months passed "without any small positive deed from the presidency towards a comprehensive settlement".

He asked why Lord Carrington kept imposing conditions on him and Mr Yasser Arafat, the PLO chairman, whereas the Foreign Secretary was now going to visit Israel, without conditions, "after Israel has annexed Golan, has bombed Beirut, has tortured our people, and so many things".

Dr Dajani asked why Lord Carrington had not continued the contacts with the PLO leadership maintained by his predecessors in the EEC chair.

The demand for "a signal towards recognition of Israel" was unreasonable, Dr Dajani said, since Israel did not recognize the PLO and its leaders had declared frankly that they would have no dealings with the PLO even if it did recognize Israel.

Mr Arafat and the PLO leaders had made it abundantly clear that their aim was a peaceful settlement, including an independent Palestinian state.

Dr Dajani said Palestinians were being subjected by Israel to measures such as detention without trial and blowing up of houses, under laws introduced in Palestine by Britain.

He deplored the fact that no "official voice" had been heard saying that these laws had been a mistake, or that such recognition of the PLO would be justified by British laws in present circumstances.

Fears for health of Deng grow

Peking, Jan 25. — The Chinese media have omitted the name of Mr Deng Xiaoping, the Communist Party chairman, from lists of leaders present at the lunar new year celebrations in Peking, provoking speculation about his health.

Press, radio and television reports yesterday and today listed the names of every other member of the seven-man communist Party Politburo standing committee, the party's highest body, except Mr Deng.

For the past few weeks rumours have been rife in Peking about the state of health of Mr Deng, who is 77.

According to other PLO sources, these were: The PLO should be mentioned by name, the borders of the proposed Palestinian state should not be those of the territories occupied in 1967; the involvement of the superpowers should be specified; the settlement should be reached through the United Nations and not in an independent conference; and in any meeting the PLO would be the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinians.

Bethlehem mayor politically isolated

Jerusalem. — Mr Elias Freij, the elected Arab mayor of Bethlehem, today found himself politically isolated after most of the leading mayors in the occupied West Bank rejected his weekend call for the PLO to launch its own peace initiative and recognize Israel (Christopher Walker writes).

One of the strongest reactions came from Mr Bassam Shihab, the mayor of Nablus, the largest West Bank town, and a long-standing PLO supporter. "Mr Freij's call is a continuation of the Camp David logic which harms peace in the region, the peace of the Palestinians and of the whole world," he stated.

Mr Shihab, who was maimed by a car bomb in 1980, described Mr Freij's Israel radio interview as a surrender to Israel and American pressure and said that they should first recognize the PLO.

The opposition expressed by Mr Shihab was shared by a number of other prominent West Bank mayors, including Mr Karim Khalef, of Ramallah, who was also injured in the 1980 car bomb attacks.

Corruption deplored by Indian President

From Trevor Fishlock, Delhi, Jan 25

In a remarkably candid speech on the eve of India's Republic Day President Sanjiva Reddy tonight deplored the growth of violence and corruption in the country.

He spoke of "consequences too frightening to contemplate" if faith in the political system were further eroded, and rued the decay of "the noble spirit" of Mahatma Gandhi.

The speech, broadcast on All-India Radio, was notable for its strong element of anxiety and disappointment on an occasion when the country usually celebrates itself and its achievements.

The President's words reflected a mood of pessimism and agonized appraisal in the country, as expressed in a recent spate of newspaper articles on the growth of venality, of violence and of falling standards in public life.

Like many Indians, President Reddy was asking "Where and why have we gone wrong?" Above all, his critique voiced the disappointment felt in a section of the older generation who worked for, or were inspired by Gandhi in the years of the independence struggle.

On the credit side his speech listed India's agricultural and industrial achievements, but on the debit side it referred to the plight of poor farmers and of large numbers of urban poor living in squalor.

He spoke of the growing tendency to violence, saying that "values and sanctions which enabled us to live together in peace (now) appear to be losing their hold. Respect for older and

DRUG WAR VICTORY CLAIMED

From David Watts, Singapore, Jan 25

The Thai military is claiming an important victory against the principle opium trader in the Golden Triangle after five days of fighting at the edge of the area.

The fighting began last week when the Thai engaged Chang Chifu's Burmese separatist Shan United Army in north-west Thailand close to the Burmese border. By tonight they claimed to have killed 90 of Chang's men, wounded twice that number and captured one of his most important strongholds with a large cache of weapons. Security forces lost 17 dead.

Western diplomats and military men in Thailand, however, treat the Thai claims with some scepticism. According to the Thai their forces captured some 307 tons of ammunition and 4,000 weapons.

Prisoners of conscience



Argentina: Liliana Graciela Vogler

By Caroline Moorehead

Liliana Graciela Vogler was a university student aged 17 when she was arrested, on June 25, 1975, at her home in Rio de Janeiro in the province of Cordoba. After a confession, said to have been extracted under torture, that she and two friends were involved in political activities, she was charged under Law 20,840, which deals with "subversive activities". She is now serving a nine-year prison sentence.

During the two days after her arrest she is said to have been held by the provincial police, who drew up a "declaration" of guilt and forced her, after torture, to sign it. Later she was told that if she denied the confession in court her family would be killed. In court she duly confirmed it, but as the preliminary hearings came to an end declared that she had been beaten.

After further student arrests in Rio Cuarto the city's federal judge ordered her to be moved to Cordoba penitentiary for a new investigation. This time she demanded, and got, a promise of protection if she spoke out. In court she gave details of her torture, but again all mention was removed from the published record.

Five days later, part of her family house was blown up. A few weeks later, another bomb blasted the house and her father was told that he would be killed unless he left the city. When he failed to go he was arrested and held without charge in Cordoba penitentiary for two years. On his release he went into exile.

Dissent rumbles on as Spanish MP quits

From Harry Debelius, Madrid, Jan. 25

With cracks appearing in Spain's leading political parties, Señor Francisco Soler Valero, MP for Almeira, confirmed today in a radio broadcast that he plans to quit the ruling Centre Democratic Union (UCD) because he "cannot identify with its performance".

Señor Soler Valero is one of five UCD MPs with whom the party's chief whip, Señor Jaime Lamo de Espinosa, has had talks in the past few days to try to stop them joining the Democratic Coalition, a conservative group headed by Señor Manuel Fraga Iribarne, a former ambassador to London.

Two other leading members of the UCD's right wing, Señor Oscar Alzaga and Señor Miguel Herrero, denied reports that they would leave the party.

On the left, too, all is not well, although the Socialists' popularity is increasing, according to various polls. The Spanish Socialist Workers' Party, the principal opposition, has decided not to form a coalition with the

Spanish Communist Party if the Socialists win the next general elections, according to remarks made by their Secretary-General, Señor Felipe Gonzalez.

The declaration came at a time when the Socialist Party is seriously considering the pact made for coalitions in the municipal governments of a number of Spanish cities, following mass dismissals and resignations of members of the Communist Party.

A policy of leftist coalition is not possible in Spain, Señor Gonzalez said. However, he left the door open to cooperate with other parties if the Socialists win the elections but fail to get an absolute majority.

Two bombs, thought to be reprisals by Basque extremists against businessmen who refused to pay so-called "revolutionary taxes" damaged a quayside warehouse and the offices of a brewery in San Sebastian last night. Scuffles between leftists and right-wing activists occurred at the weekend in Madrid and Ortega.

Law Report January 26 1982

Privy Council

Lawful custody to be proved

Dillon v The Queen

Before Lord Fraser of Tullybelton, Lord Simon of Glaisdale, Lord Russell of Killowen, Lord Roskill and Lord Bridge of Harwich.

[Judgment delivered January 25]

Where a police constable was charged with permitting a prisoner to escape from his custody the prosecution was not entitled to rely on a presumption that the prisoner's detention in custody was lawful but had to prove its lawfulness by affirmative evidence.

The Judicial Committee of the Privy Council allowed the appeal by Roy Dillon, a police constable, from a decision of the Court of Appeal of Jamaica by which that court dismissed his appeal against his conviction by Mr. A. Lambert a resident magistrate at Kingston, Jamaica, of having negligently permitted Paul Bryan and Robert Blackwood to escape from lawful custody.

Mr. Nigel Murray for the constable, Mr. Ian X. Forde, QC, Director of Public Prosecutions, Jamaica, and Mr. F. Algernon Smith, Deputy DPP Jamaica, for the Crown.

LORD FRASER, delivering their Lordships' judgment, said that the appellant was a police constable. On April 25, 1976 he had been on duty at the central police station lock-up in Kingston, Jamaica. His duties included guarding the cells and ensuring that the prisoners in custody did not escape. Among the prisoners were Paul Bryan and Robert Blackwood. While his superior officer was engaged in duties elsewhere the constable had opened the cells occupied by the prisoners Bryan and Blackwood and allowed them to escape. He was charged before the resident magistrate with having negligently permitted Bryan and Blackwood to escape from lawful custody.

At the hearing, the evidence was that the prisoner Bryan had been arrested in February 1976 on a charge of shooting. It was alleged that he had escaped from custody and had been recaptured on March 24, 1976. Thereafter he

had been in custody until he escaped again on April 25.

There was no evidence to show that he had been brought before a magistrate between March 24 and April 25 or that on March 24 there had been any written authority for his detention. The Crown had conceded that if he had not been brought before a magistrate between March 24 and April 25 his continued detention would have been unlawful.

A separate prisoner, Blackwood, had been transferred to the central police station lock-up from the remand section of the General Penitentiary, Kingston. There was no evidence as to any power pursuant to which he had been transferred to the lock-up and held there.

The Crown had argued that on a charge of negligently permitting a prisoner to escape from custody the prosecution did not have to prove affirmatively that the prisoner's detention had been lawful and that it was entitled to rely on a presumption that the effect in accordance with the maxim *omnia praesumuntur rite et solemniter esse acta donec probetur in contrarium* (things are presumed to have been done properly in the absence of proof to the contrary).

Hawkins's Pleas of the Crown 7th edition (1975) chapter 19, §232, in considering what should be judged an escape, stated that there had to have been an actual arrest and that the arrest, imprisonment and any continued imprisonment had to be justifiable. In accordance with that authority, Archbold's Pleading, Evidence and Practice in Criminal Cases 40th edition (1979) paragraph 3428 stated that to establish the offence the prosecution had to prove that the constable had had the prisoner in actual custody under a lawful warrant.

It was quite clear that the lawfulness of the detention was a necessary precondition for the offence of permitting an escape. It was also well established that the courts would not presume the existence of facts which were central to an offence: see *R v Willis* (1972) 12 Cox CC 164 and *Scott v Baker* (1969) 1 QB 659.

Queen's Bench Division

Wife in refuge is homeless

Regina v Ealing London Borough, Ex parte Sidhu
Before Mr Justice Hodgson
[Judgment delivered January 21]

The fact that a woman is accommodated at a refuge for battered wives could not justify a local authority's refusal to treat her as a homeless person under section 1 of the Housing (Homeless Persons) Act 1977. In addition, where she was residing with her dependent children, the local authority was not entitled to require her to obtain a final custody order in respect of the children before treating her as a person in priority need of accommodation under the Act.

Mr Justice Hodgson so held in the Queen's Bench Division on January 21 when granting an application by Paramjit Kaur Sidhu for declarations that she was a homeless person in priority need of accommodation within the meaning of section 2(1)(a) of the Act; that she had become neither homeless nor intentionally homeless; and that the London Borough of Ealing were in breach of their duties under the Act.

Mr Andrew Arden for Mrs Sidhu; Mr Patrick Clarkson for the London Borough of Ealing.

MR JUSTICE HODGSON said that Mrs Sidhu's marriage first ran into difficulties in 1975. In 1979 their council rent ran into arrears. In January 1981 she was thrown out of the house after being assaulted by her husband. After family intervention and reconciliation was effected. In March 1981 she, her husband and two young children were evicted from their council accommodation by order of the court.

They applied to the local authority for accommodation under the Act and the local authority took less than 24 hours to decide that they were both intentionally homeless. They were provided with temporary accommodation and at the end of April 1981 got accommodation in one room of a private house.

Mrs Sidhu was again subjected to violence until finally in July 1981 she left her husband and was given accommodation in a refuge for battered wives.

That refuge was not in the London Borough of Ealing. Like all other refuges it was an extreme pressure, but the applicant and her children were fortunate in having a room of their own.

In August 1981 Mrs Sidhu had an interview with an officer of the homeless families unit of Ealing borough council for accommodation. On September 1, 1981, she was granted interim custody care and control of the two children by the court. A few days later she heard that her husband had gone to India. A copy of the court order was sent to the local authority.

On September 29, 1981, as a result of a telephone conversation, Mrs Sidhu's solicitors wrote to the local authority stating that they understood that the authority was not prepared to rehouse her until a full custody order had been granted, and asking if that was correct.

The local authority replied that the applicant was not to be considered for permanent rehousing until a full custody order had been granted, pointing out that she had been reconciled with her husband after a separation earlier in the year. The family had been evicted for rent arrears and made intentionally homeless in March 1981, and that she would be considered as a separate unit once legal proceedings had been completed.

From that letter it was clear that the local authority were not prepared even to contemplate their statutory duty under the Act until they had been asked to call a full custody order was granted.

The solicitor drew the council's attention to the judgment in *Regina v North Devon District Council, Ex parte Lewis* (1981) 1 WLR 326 and also to that which they plainly knew, namely that under section 2(1)(b) of the Act

the applicant and her children as a separate unit were unintentionally homeless, having been forced to leave when threatened with violence.

Receiving no reply the solicitors wrote again asking the local authority to provide a statement under section 8 of the Act.

The local authority replied that the applicant would be assessed in her own right and would not be assessed as a separate unit, but that she could not be assessed as such until she had been legally separated from her husband and had obtained custody of the children, until which time she was still part of the original family unit.

They also claimed that the provision of accommodation at the refuge in North Kensington was an adequate discharge of their duties under section 3(4) of the Act and stated that the authority were still investigating whether the applicant was in priority need, pending the outcome of custody proceedings.

They declined to provide notification under section 8 on the ground that while Mrs Sidhu might be threatened with homelessness she was not actually homeless, and that investigations were continuing. They stated that while not specified in the Act, it was normally requested by all local authorities before a separated spouse could be accepted as homeless and in priority need.

His Lordship said it was plain from that letter that the local authority had no access to law reports or failed to understand the judgment to which they had been referred. The local authority had taken no part in securing housing for accommodation, and it was not in their area. So far as she was concerned the local authority were still investigating whether she was in priority need.

It was difficult to imagine a more complete misdirection by a local authority than the letter implied. There was nothing about the factual situation which it required further investigation. The solicitors wrote to the local authority informing them that they intended applying to the court for judicial review and the local authority replied that Mrs Sidhu was "not for the time being homeless".

Before the court the local authority submitted that Mrs Sidhu and her children were not homeless under section 1 of the Act because they were being accommodated by the charity of the Women's Aid organization. It was deeply regrettable that the local authority were being asked to instruct counsel to put forward that submission which was totally unjustified.

His Lordship said it was important that refugees be seen as temporary crisis accommodation, and that women living in refuges were still homeless under the terms of the Act. If it was suggested that they were not homeless it would be necessary for voluntary organizations to issue immediate 28-day notices when women came in so that they would be under threat of homelessness.

That would be totally undesirable and would simply add stress to the family. If it was a crisis accommodation took women out of the "homeless" category then the Act was being watered down and its protections would be removed from a whole class of persons that it was set up to help and for whom it was extremely important.

On the question whether Mrs Sidhu was in priority need of accommodation it was clear that she was in priority need if she had dependent children living with her. It was difficult to understand how the local authority could suggest that that was not so in the applicant's case.

It was contended by the local authority that not only must they be satisfied that there were dependent children living with the applicant but they must also be satisfied that there was not

the slightest doubt but that the situation would continue.

There was not one word in the Act which would lead to that conclusion. The wrong conclusion may have been arrived at because they applied the test of requiring a final custody order, which had nothing to do with what they were required to do under section 3(1) of the Act.

On the question whether Mrs Sidhu was homeless intentionally there was no doubt that from the evidence and the surrounding circumstances the applicant's case should have been considered as separate from that of her husband, and no reasonable local authority could have come to any other conclusion but that she was not intentionally homeless.

The local authority should have been satisfied that the applicant was homeless. Once they knew that she and her children were forced by violence to leave their accommodation and to be admitted to the refuge any reasonable authority would have been so satisfied.

No reasonable authority knowing that she was living in a refuge in one room with two children could fail to be satisfied that she had a priority need or that their homelessness was unintentional.

The local authority should have accepted their responsibility under the Act. The difficulty which the local authority faced had been explained thus. There were apparently occasions when a spouse applied as a homeless person and as a separate unit from the other spouse who rendered them homeless. If that happened it was just as they "jumped the queue". In an attempt to avoid that situation the local authority had confused the making of inquiries into a factual situation with being satisfied that nothing would happen to change the factual situation.

There was nothing in the Act which would lead to a delaying of inquiries to ensure that no change would take place in the future. That was not the faintest suggestion of that in the applicant's case, but because of the worries local authorities had that the situation might change they had devised the expedient of asking for a final custody order.

Not only was there not the faintest suggestion in the Act that they could take that account but it seemed a wholly inappropriate test. Custody frequently had nothing to do with dependence and residence. One party could have custody and the other have care and control. The suggestion that an applicant who had not got a final custody order could be taken out of the Act was totally wrong in law.

The danger that the Act could be used to circumvent the queue waiting for accommodation could not be avoided in that way, nor could any reasonable local authority think that it could. Solicitors: Darlington & Partners, Ealing; Mr N. L. Green, Ealing.

Signatures not surplusage

Regina v Torri

The fact that a company's seal was a sufficient signature did not mean that other signatures could not be, or cease to be, material parts of the document; and accordingly it could not be argued that allegedly forged signatures were in any event surplusage that could not disclose an offence contrary to section 1 of the Forgery Act 1913. Lord Justice O'Connor (sitting with Mr Justice Phillips and Mr Justice McCowan) held in the Court of Appeal (Criminal Division) on January 21.

Knitting revolution

Fifteen thousand little old ladies are being put to flight by a revolution unwinding in the knitwear business. Their glass-fronted drawers, holding balls of pastel wool, are giving way to bright interiors looped with skeins of colourful yarn. Cosy displays of be-ribboned mittens, coats or baby's mittens have been replaced by witty picture sweaters or bold collages of colour.

A new breed of retailer, who sees knitting as art and craft, has now sprung up to challenge the elderly lady in the corner shop — who has found herself squeezed by increasing rents and rates.

Against all predictions, it is the younger generation who have taken up the needles. Many people still knit to pass the time and to save money (although that is a finely-balanced calculation in a busy life). But new knitters are inspired by the chance of creating something original and by fashion's emphasis on hand-knits.

Colour and texture have been the major development in the yarn business over the last decade. Where once we were talking about a limited range of standard shades (based on blue, red and neutrals) the good yarn manufacturers now have colour ranges that could match a decorator's paint chart. The standard two-ply double knitting wools have been supplemented by clouds of soft mohair, balls of hard lured, tweedy, marled and boucle yarns. Even thermal yarns, to give extra warmth without bulk and weight, have been produced by companies like Lister Lee.

The knitting trade descends on Harrogate this week for the Needlecraft Exhibition. They are beginning to realize that there is a world of difference between servicing those people who want to knit to a price, and inspiring lapsed or doubting knitters.

Rebecca and David Elliott of Laines Couture (20 Bedford Street, WC2) feel that the British knitting companies have not taken advantage of the new moods in knitting. Their wares are so tactile that I wanted to finger the glittering puffs of candy floss pink or multi-shaded skeins in earthy colours. Almost all their yarns are French, especially from Plassard and Tiber.

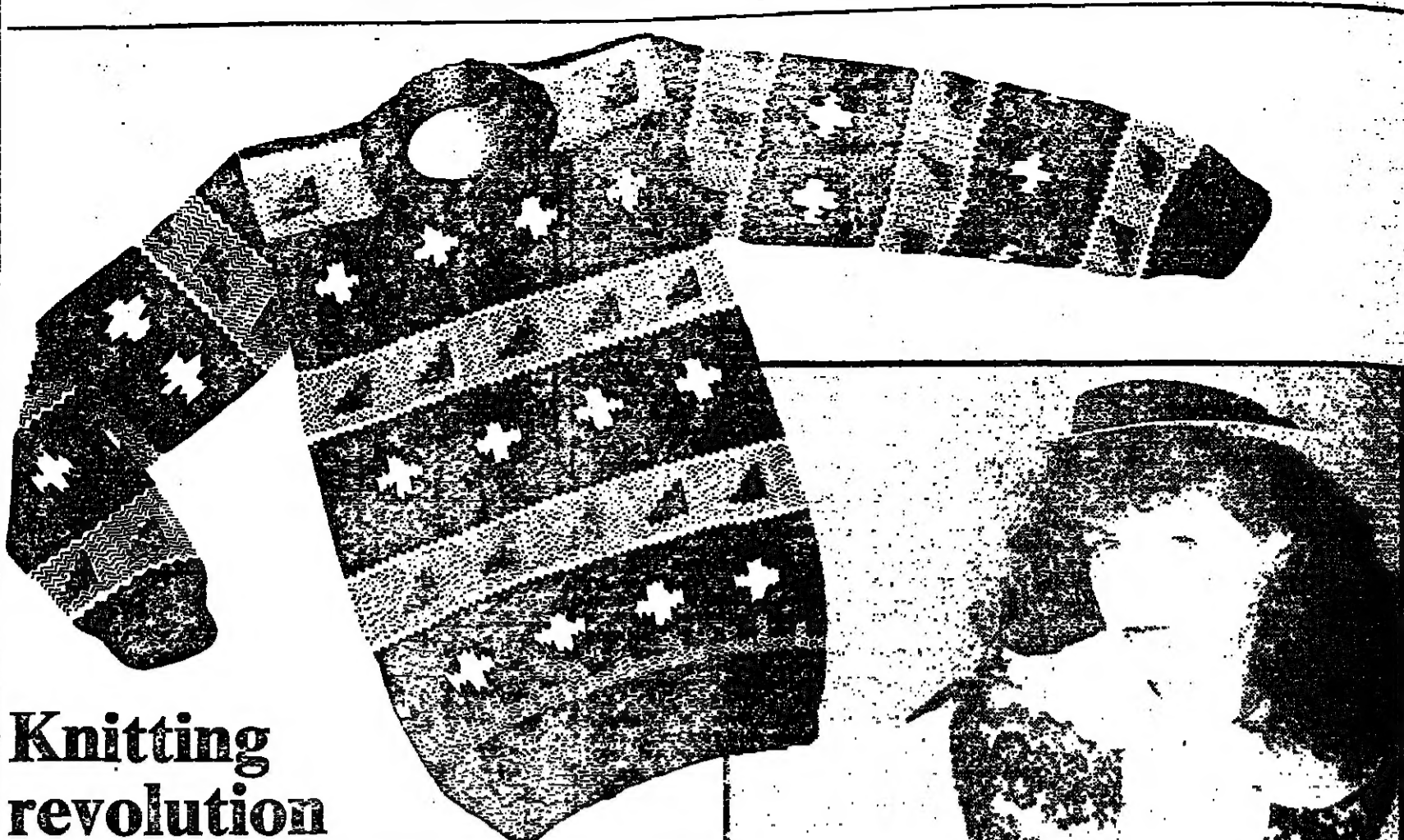
There is a general feeling in Laines Couture that this is an artists' emporium. Those simple souls who come in for a 20p pattern find that the inspiration is supposed to come not from a picture plate, but from the wool itself. If your creative skills do not run to a Joseph coat thrown off in your spare time, they stock those mouth-watering French pattern books and those done specially for magazines like *Cent Ideas* and *Elle*.

Patricia Roberts (15 Kensington Church Walk, W8 and 60 Kinnerton Street, SW1) started with the patterns. The seven of her bi-annual knitting books comes out this week and illustrates nicely the transformation of the hand-knit look. Here are crunchy cotton-textured sweaters in intricate stitchcraft. There is a superb fairisle sweater knitted in a flower garden of silks. An extraordinary explosion of 1950s pattern and bobbly texture

rub shoulders with a clutch of juggling clowns. Their own knitting yarns now play an important part in the Patricia Roberts' shops (a new one opens in Covent Garden in April). At Harrogate this week they are introducing four more yarns (which wholesale throughout the country), including pure silk and 100 per cent cashmere.

Celia Dowell of the Yarn Store (8 Ganton Street, W1) started as a knitwear designer, graduated to menswear and to acquiring at the Royal College of Art, and opened her own shop last spring. With her partner Marie Bower, she produces simple but stylish patterns to make

Hand-knit fashion by Suzy Menkes



■ Above: bold Aztec patterned sweater in Icelandic wool by Celia Dowell for The Yarn Store 8 Ganton Street London W1. Wool £1.65 for 100 gram ball in 36 colours. Patterns 35p with wool only. Total cost £20.70. Send see for mail order details.

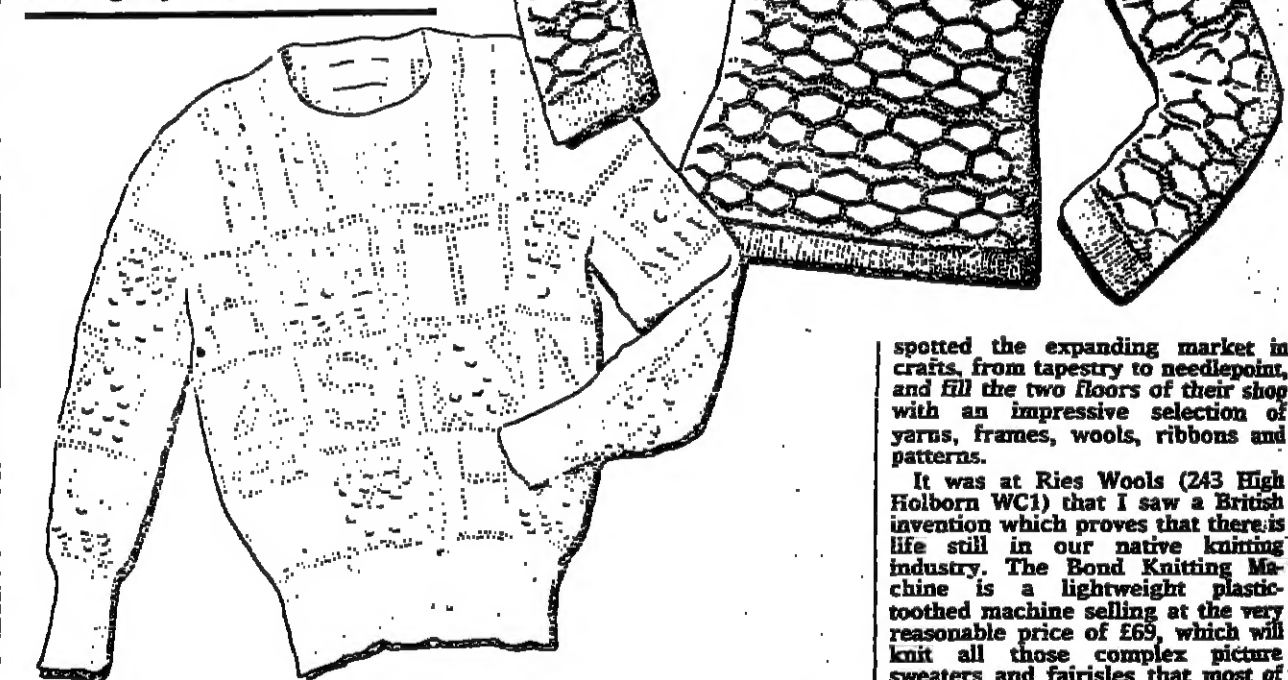
■ Right: hand-knits to inspire: knitted cotton fairisle waistcoat in brights on black or cream £11.00, prairie blouse and tie-necked skirt. All by Ralph Lauren from 143 New Bond Street W1. Straw panama by Kangol from Selfridges Oxford Street W1. Navaho look turquoise bracelet £35, earrings £17 by Imagica, from 11, St Christopher's Place W1.

Hair Trevor Bowden at Colombe. Make up Mary Vango for Utilma 11. Photograph by John Swannell.

■ Below right: Multi-textured honeycomb patterned sweater in Tiber's cotton velour (£2.02), furry polyester Paycelle (£3.50) and Laines Soiree (£1.45), total cost around £35. Instructions free with yarn from Laines Couture 20 Bedford Street London WC2. Send see for mail order details.

■ Below: crunchy lace and bobbly sweater by Patricia Roberts from her new pattern book £1.65 from leading newsagents and knitting departments. In Woollyear Fine Cotton (£5p, 17 shades) total cost £11.70. Or in Woollyear Pure Silk (£1.55, 10 shades) total cost £23.25. From Patricia Roberts 15 Kensington Church Walk W8 and 60 Kinnerton Street SW1, and mail order.

Drawings by Duncan Mill.



up in their yarns, which include the hair colour spectrum of the heavy Icelandic yarn and their own Super Chunky, at £1.95 a hank, which comes in stunning colours like fuchsia and egg yolk yellow. Celia claims that a first-time knitter can pick up the giant wooden chopsticks and turn out a sweater in just three evenings for around £23.

All the shops mentioned above do a brisk mail order business and seemed to me to offer a splendid service advising and helping their customers. This service is also offered in some of the department stores and at a specialist shop like Ries Wools of Holborn. Angela and Barry Ries

spotted the expanding market in crafts, from tapestry to needlepoint, and fill the two floors of their shop with an impressive selection of yarns, frames, wools, ribbons and patterns.

It was at Ries Wools (243 High Holborn WC1) that I saw a British invention which proves that there is life still in our native knitting industry. The Bond Knitting Machine is a lightweight plastic-toothed machine selling at the very reasonable price of £69, which will knit all those complex picture sweaters and fairisles that most of us don't even have the courage to attempt.

I don't think that confirmed hand-knitters who enjoy working with their hands will be seduced by any machine. But the Bond is light enough (4lb) to set up and small enough (38 inches long) to store. It is also simple to use for the basic knitting, although one of my testers found the ribbing trying to elderly eyes (you have to use a transfer tool or darning needle).

The machine has four different key plates, but it is especially designed for the thicker wools, which proves that inventor Roger Curry understands the mood and feel of current fashion as well as the age-old technique of knitting.

Snippets

■ Sap seems to be rising in the blue-blooded veins of our British couture houses.

Hardy Amies' latest collection unveiled last week was full of crisp clothes, designed by Ken Flettwort — especially in the ready-to-wear section.

Fresh as a flag in red, white and blue, with outbreaks of sunny yellow, were linen jackets, casual knitted cotton jumpers and shorts in cotton pique or linen, worn with strawcracker blazers.

Really long printed cotton skirts with defined waists, worn with camisole tops or cotton voile T-shirts made pretty and informal summer evening clothes.

The couture clothes were inevitably more formal and in rather heavier weights. Real spring suits came in Prince of Wales checks, unusually coloured in lilac, which was a theme of the collection.

I am sure that the late Norman Hartnell, with his twinkly sense of humour, would admire the courage of his designated designer Annette Harvey, who included two pretty cotton maternity dresses in the Spring collection and entitled them "Great Expectations".

Most of Hartnell's clients

(royal and otherwise) are probably past child-bearing age. But Annette Harvey, in the first collection she has designed entirely on her own, brought youth and vigour.

Her culotte skirts, carefully cut with a wrap panel at the front so as not to frighten the horses, looked well as part of a tweed couture suit or in soft silk for ready-to-wear.

The pretty ruffled style of the Princess of Wales was echoed in the evening dresses, both the formal chiffons decorated with sequins and the more relaxed evening culottes.

Yves Saint Laurent deserves more than a footnote for his place in twentieth century fashion. His translation of men's tailoring to the female body gave fashion the pin-striped suit and the tuxedo. His witty eye drew the see-through blouse and the 1940s revival into the orbit of high fashion.

He celebrates this week his twentieth birthday (the House, not the man) and has thereby the opportunity, given to so few of us, of collecting his own tributes and reading in advance his obituary.



Navy and white striped cotton blazer, voile T-shirt and pique shorts from Hardy Amies ready-to-wear. About £145, £45, £75 from 14 Seville Row.

Flower sprigged cotton maternity smock by Annette Harvey for Norman Hartnell ready-to-wear. Price £30 from 26 Bruton Street.

THE ARTS

Galleries

The architecture of showmanship

Magnificent Matcham
Lyric, Hammersmith
Lars Sonck
Heinz Gallery
Lubetkin and Tecton
Museum of Modern Art, Oxford
Sabaudia, Citta Nuova Fascista
Architectural Association

Exhibitions used to be primarily a way of putting a number of things together to be seen by the public: display, at any rate in the art exhibitions, was very much a subsidiary consideration. One would notice, of course, whether the pieces were well or ill lit, whether they were related in some useful way to one another or just left to fend for themselves. But the exhibition as an art form in its own right was developed (unconsciously to begin with) in the service of commerce and political propaganda. It was no doubt inevitable, from the moment when Pop Artists began making art out of other people's art, and assemblages, installations and environments became favoured art forms, that the exhibition itself should be seen in a similar light: an installation in which the real artist was the designer, using the art-works of others to make a new art-work of his own.

Most of the new breed of historical shows which has been sweeping across Europe in the last couple of years seem to belong to this class: they are certainly not primarily art shows, but use works of art along with all sorts of other things to create a total picture or argue a particular point. If the art critic has anything legitimate to do at them (and if not he, then who?), it is as much as anything to judge the exhibition itself as a work of art.

With exhibitions on architecture the situation is less clear-cut. Though architectural exhibitions have been a feature of the art scene for many years, they have seldom been much more than shows of photographs, with the odd original drawing or artist's rendering of a project thrown in whenever possible. With the Hayward Gallery's *Lutens* show (which, by the way, you have until Sunday to catch if you have not seen it already) architectural



The interior of Tampere Cathedral, Sonck's first big success; and (right) the town hall and square of Sabaudia

shows finally hit the big time in this country: largely by dint of showing us just how the work of one artist could be evoked through the work of another (or a team of them) whose medium is the exhibition itself.

It is interesting to look at some of the other shows at present devoted to architecture in this light. The most modest of them all, *Magnificent Matcham*, until February 6, is in one respect at least way ahead of the rest: it can actually show a big piece of Matcham's work directly, in the form of the transplanted, slightly modified and lavishly refurbished auditorium of the theatre where the show is located. You can walk straight from the evocation to the real thing. Undoubtedly that helps. Frank Matcham has hardly been one of the better known late Victorian architects, since he worked almost entirely in that until recently despised architectural form the theatre. And yet it cannot be said of the man who designed, *inter alia*, the Coliseum, the Palladium, the Hippodrome (now Talk of the Town) and the Victoria Palace that he failed to leave his mark on the London townscape. And it turns out that he did the same for an incredible number of provincial towns and cities: between 1879 and 1912 he designed more than 150 theatres.

Its main exhibit apart, the Matcham show is a little nest of photographs and documents installed, visually isolated, in the antiseptic new lobby — which he

would have detested — to the old auditorium. At the entrance there is one further piece of the real thing, however: a rather lurid plaster figure of an Indian god (why Indian? well, why not?) such as decorates the front of the main boxes in another recently restored Matcham masterpiece, the Grand Opera House, Belfast. It is more solid than anything the organizers of the Lars Sonck exhibition at the Heinz Gallery of the R.I.B.A. (21 Portman Square, until February 27) have been able to ship over from Finland. But they do have some absolutely beautiful drawings, usually (as is so often the way) of unexecuted projects and unsuccessful entries for architectural competitions.

Though Sonck had his share of such, that did not prevent him, as anyone who has ever visited Helsinki will attest, from leaving an indelible impression on that city and on Finnish architecture in general. Outside Finland his name is scarcely known: Saarinen and Aalto seem to be as many Finnish architects as the world can absorb. Partly this is due to the very curious style in which his earlier buildings were designed. Finland had its own local brand of Art Nouveau/Jugendstil/Secession art around the turn of the century, known as the National Romantic Movement. Sonck's first notable buildings, which date from the 1900s, belong right in the middle of that. The banking hall of the Helsinki Privatbanken, for instance, with its giant, dumpy columns and monumental carved capitals, looks more like the

setting for a Sibelius tone-poem than somewhere one might do something so mundane as to cash a cheque.

It was a good style for cathedrals — Sonck's first big success was Tampere Cathedral (1900) — modifying gothic forms as radically and peculiarly as Gaudi was doing in Barcelona; Sonck applied it with equal success to hospitals and the offices of the Helsinki Telephone Company. Though clearly belonging to the international Art Nouveau, it scorns the famous sinuous line (at most, one or two might be incised on a monumental slab) and goes off darkly on its own. In any case, by the end of the decade Sonck had moved beyond it: in 1911 he was already working in his own neo-classical style which looks forward to Art Deco. For anyone who does not already know his work the show (accompanied by a very useful monograph in Finnish and English, £6) should be an eye-opener — though it opens our eyes in a very modest, self-effacing sort of way.

Sonck's work was nationalist, when that was not a dirty word, but not political or polemic. By the Thirties it was difficult to avoid being either — at least by implication. Not that Lubetkin or the builders of Sabaudia had the least desire to avoid it: rather, they welcomed it with open arms. The titles of the shows devoted to Lubetkin and Tecton: *Architecture and Social Commitment* at the Oxford Museum of Modern

Art until February 28; Sabaudia, Citta Nuova Fascista at the Architectural Association, 34 Bedford Square, until February 13.

If the name of Lubetkin does not ring any bell, I am sure the image of the Penguin Pond at London Zoo does. Built in 1934, this whimsical yet at the same time highly practical structure, with its two curved ramps elegantly intersecting in the middle, was for some time the perfect plain man's introduction to modern architecture. But Lubetkin and the office he worked with in Britain, Tecton, had more to them than that.

Russian by birth and early training, Lubetkin was sent to Berlin in 1922 to help spread the work of progressive Soviet art, worked subsequently in Vienna, Warsaw and Paris, where he was in charge of realizing the designs for the 1925 Exposition des Arts Decoratifs, and then from 1931 lived and worked in Britain. He was and remains of Socialist persuasion, convinced that architecture must serve a social purpose; his withdrawal from the architectural scene in 1950 was so complete one must presume it was dictated by disillusion. The show is, as before, the theme, a little dry and didactic, but the materials available are very rich, and from them it conjures up a powerful image of the times, how they struck one man, and what he tried, very determinedly, to do about it. Sabaudia is all image-making. In

the early Thirties the Italian government decided to cap its achievement in draining the Pontine Marshes by building on the land five new towns, and held a competition for the biggest. Sabaudia, which was to be conceived all of a piece, to the glory of the regime as much as for the use of its inhabitants. A group of young Roman architects, Piccinato, Montuori, Cancellotti and Scapellato, won the award; the foundation stone was laid on August 5, 1932, and by April 1934 the town centre was ready for royal inauguration. To judge by the splendid array of photographs, contemporary and recent, plans and architect's drawings assembled at the A.A.A., the experience of Sabaudia must be very peculiar. Like walking through a classic Chirico, perhaps, or at any rate a setting which might have been specially devised for someone to feel alienated in during an Antonioni film.

What, now, are the Fascist Party Headquarters, the Fascist Militia Barracks and the Club for Fascist Youth used for? Presumably much the same, only with a different political complexion or no political complexion at all. Nevertheless, the period flavour is overwhelming: surely here, if anywhere, candles are secretly lighted for the Duce in the dead of night, like an aesthetic incense capsule, long after the regime is dead its own necropolitic monument lingers on.

John Russell Taylor

Television

Friendly force

After three episodes of BBC1's *Police* I had come to the conclusion that if, by some monstrous miscarriage of justice, I were to come in conflict with the law, I would sooner it were not in the Thames Valley area, where Messrs Roger Cray and Charles Stewart have been poking around for this series.

What worried me about the last programme — the rape incident — was that, if that was how Thames Valley police dealt with an allegation of rape, what guarantee was there that they would be any less inept with anything else?

Last night we tracked back to the Reading Pop Festival of 1980, a testing time surely for any force. Trains, cars, buses and bikes brought in 30,000 music-lovers, a fair number favouring the kind of studded leather ornamentation that, in my youth, was thought proper only for brewery horses. Dull it could not be. And it was not.

We saw the police being briefed. So far as drugs were concerned, they were not looking for a cricket score; they were looking for dealers and suppliers. Officers were exhorted to remember that their behaviour would create lasting impressions, to steer clear of the hospital tent so that users suffering from bad effects would not be deterred from seeking treatment.

We saw the drug squad at work, fairly friendly frisking, and then, alarmingly, a gathering mob as someone was arrested and put in a police car. No one would want the job at that time like that, to try reason against numbers on a hot day when the drink and maybe many other stimulants have been flowing. But there was no punch-up and trouble was averted, the mob turning to song.

Gratifying one of the leathery, sweat-banded types was heard telling some policeman: "I nearly joined your mob once but I had different ideas on retribution from what you lot have. I'm strictly an eye-for-an-eye, a tooth-for-a-tooth." He was right about not joining, that is, he was right about not joining on this day in Reading it was New Testament stuff only. There were arrests and hope from the drug squad — for this is Operation Julie country — that they were on to a big catch, but what was thought to be LSD turned out to be semolina and meant for fraud.

On the whole it was, given the numbers and the occasion, fairly peaceable and reassuring. It was all done with 200 policemen, about 25 in the drug squad and wearing clothes that might well have got them frisked outside their own division. An A-plus for Thames Valley on this one. Now it is only the thought of that music that would keep me away. This was the first of Cray and Stewart's programmes that will not raise a press pursuit of some kind, but they are a long way from finished and *Police* is now a "must" programme.

BBC2's *West Country Tales* which started last night with the first of seven strange tales submitted by viewers in BBC South-West, may not achieve that rating but, on this showing, it should be entertaining enough. Last night's tale, a true story submitted by a clergyman who chooses anonymity, concerned the weird experiences of an overworked priest dispatched to take a holiday in a peaceful village.

The devil, who, we know, never takes a holiday and is not terribly pleased with this priest's unremitting efforts to tweak his tail, goes along too, with alarming consequences for the tail-tweaker. The battle ended happily but, presumably, not the way Keith Barron made a good job of the priest and it was well produced and directed by John King.

Dennis Hackett

Leo McKern, star of the television series *Rumpole of the Bailey*, returns to the West End in *The Housekeeper*, a new play by Frank D. Gilroy which opens at the Apollo Theatre on February 25, with previews from February 23. The play opens at the Theatre Royal, Brighton, tonight.

Beat the train strike, Possums, walk to my show!

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Opera

The end of a San Franciscan era

The matinee of *Carmen* which he conducted marked the finale of Kurt Herbert Adler's reign as the benevolent dictator of the San Francisco Opera. During his 20 years he has nurtured it from an unadventurous provincial rep to what is arguably one of the five or six best opera companies in the world. In its annual autumn season San Franciscans have come to expect productions drawn from an extensive repertoire that are imaginative, ingenious, well-integrated and decently rehearsed. They are interpreted by some of the best artists in the world, and supported by a large and able local company.

More venturesome than any other American opera impresario, Mr Adler has mounted 102 new productions since 1952, including 13 operas new to the United States. He has introduced a great number of distinguished singers to the country, and it is here that the designer-director Pierre Ponnelle has been persuaded to make his American base. Through his network of subsidiary troupes, Mr Adler has fostered many important careers. He has balanced budgets, placated unions and city fathers and made San Francisco into nearly as serious an "opera town" as his native Vienna. The large house is regularly sold out, and audiences have been educated to an unusual degree of musical sophistication.

Much of this has been achieved by his blend of adroitly measured belligerence and charm. He has chewed up subordinates, negotiated like a Metternich, taken insane risks in casting and attended personally to a million trivial details. He clearly enjoyed all his power and his honours: he wore his medals to galas, and screamed insults, as he kissed hands, with genuine Habsburg style. He will not be soon forgotten.

It is no secret that Mr Adler cajoled a number of operatic luminaries into returning to San Francisco in his final season in return for past favours: his homage. His successor, Terry McEwen (formerly classical music director of London Records), is unlikely soon to be able to duplicate Adler's autumn 1981 line-up: Joan Sutherland, Montserrat Caballe, Teresa Berganza, Fiorenza Cossotto, Luciano Pavarotti, Placido Domingo and Wolfgang Brendel; in addition, Birgit Nilsson, Marilyn Hor-



Adler bows out after "Carmen", with Hanna Schwarz

ne, Leontyne Price, Margaret Price, Reri Grist, Leonie Rysaneck, Anja Silja, Geraint Evans, Jess Thomas, Stuart Burrows and James King were all, in effect, returning to the scene of their first American triumphs. Jess Thomas, in San Francisco on holiday, was pressed by an urgent telephone call from Mr Adler into singing a replacement Siegmund at two hours' notice.

I did not hear that particular *Die Walkure*. But both productions I saw were proudly impressive, primarily because the opera orchestra, under an inspired Omar Suiter, excelled itself in a performance of the score as subtle as it was strong. Every instrumental solo or section entry seemed virtuosic, challenging as well as supporting the singers.

Birgit Nilsson, at 63, no longer creates an unfailingly beautiful sound. Her attack on a note can be shrill, her vibrato uneven. But no one singing possesses such overwhelming power. The alternative Brunnhilde, Eszter Kovacs from Budapest, seemed a more plausible daughter, a less possible Valkyrie. She can emit single sustained notes that combine

great purity and great volume. But notes in between were lost, and I feared for the future of a voice so audibly strained.

Highest honours in this *Walkure* went to Leonie Rysaneck's Sieglinde. She sang with even and effortless power, and a radiant effluence of tone, and she looked beautiful. Her scheduled partner was James King, a noble, persuasive and full-voiced Siegmund.

The new *Carmen* was notable mainly for Jean-Pierre Ponnelle's stunning sets and (as usual) disputable innovations. It was performed for the first time in San Francisco with spoken French dialogue, which some singers had mastered and others had not. The Ponnelle sets were based on the conceit of one immense, sunshaded wall, which rolled on tracks past the wings to become the outside of the barracks, the cigarette factory and (with a deeply cut series of arches receding to the back of the house) the bullfight arena. A piece of this same wall, scribbled over with graffiti, even emerged among the rocks of the mountain pass in Act III.

Ponnelle made his soldiers more scruffy, cynical and



Adler bows out after "Carmen", with Hanna Schwarz

drunken than usual. His foul *gaiteres* collapsed at their break like depraved man-haters. The colourful (wonderfully directed) crowds were dominated by a raggle-taggle band of cowering children. Sides of beef and loads of manure were bawled, Zeffirelli-fashion, across the stage. Zuniga (who is killed by Don Jose) struts about in dark glasses. A flamboyant Dancalio terrorizes the gypsies into line, directs their lowering of a giant cannon over the cliff, and joins in their mockery of poor Miccala — who watches Carmen's murder at the end from a window in the arena.

It does not all make sense, but it is all very Ponnelle. With the second set of leads (Placido Domingo and Hanna Schwarz), all this wifely gritty naturalism — which is very far indeed from the romantic fancies of Bizet and his librettists — was enhanced by musical and dramatic conviction. On the whole, I thought it not the most congenial vehicle for the retiring director to conduct. Mr Adler will, we are assured, be back in the pit, if not in the upstairs office, in seasons to come.

David Littlejohn

LSO/Previn

Festival Hall

A friend of Brahms, the poet S. H. Mosenthal, said the composer was only happy when singing "My Joy is in the Grave". That was a posthumously humorous exaggeration, but an airy performance of Mozart's *A major Symphony*, K 201, by Andre Previn and the London Symphony Orchestra on Sunday still made a somewhat inappropriate prelude to Brahms's *Ein Deutsches Requiem*.

All of which is ungrateful no doubt, as he intended the work as a consolation to the living, and Mr Previn's tempos were such as to avoid torquidity. This was particularly noticeable in the 3/4 march movements, "Denn alles Fleisch es ist wie Gras", and also in the opening "Selig sind die da Leid tragen". Here the choral lines rise and fall, and indeed the dynamics of the London Symphony Chorus were good throughout, there being no exaggeration of hushed reverence in the quiet passages but plenty of power in the loud, most obviously in the march piece.

There was excellent dovetailing at many points in this performance, as between organ and orchestral bass-lines, or the placing of the important trumpet contributions to "Denn alles Fleisch". Similarly in "Herr lehre doch mich" the violin counterpoint to the choral tenors at "Ich hoffe auf dich" was beautifully distinct. John Shirley Quirk was in expressive voice in this movement as was Sheila Armstrong in the ethereal "Ihr habt nun Traurigkeit". And the LSO trombones were unobtrusively impressive in the quantity of soft passages Brahms provided for them.

Max Harrison

RPO/Shostakovich

Festival Hall

Maxim Shostakovich came to the rescue of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra on Sunday afternoon after two other conductors had become disengaged. Placido Domingo decided to save his debut in this capacity for an operatic occasion, probably at Covent Garden, though it is not yet known if he will sing in it as well. And, more disturbingly, Witold Rowicki, who was to have replaced him, was unable to leave Poland.

All that remained of the original programme then was

Concerts

Kyung-Wah Chung and the G minor Violin Concerto of Max Bruch, which she has made more romantic but less sentimental in the ten years or so since I first heard her play it. The violin's crucial entry in the slow movement, stealing in on the breath of the famous tune, had the requisite rapidness and wonder from which the beauty later stemmed.

It is in the finale that the soloist has now found her way to a brighter and fuller sense of musical character, with an absolute security of intonation that helps her take all commands of technique in her stride. The performance also conveyed a rapport with the orchestra which the conductor fully sustained in the alert ensemble that was so apparent at the start in Mussorgsky's *Night on the Bare Mountain*.

The symphony was changed to Tchaikovsky's fifth, wherein the conductor well knew the secret of letting the letter of the music generate the emotional temperature without pulling it about. Warmth and affection disciplined his occasional windy rhetoric; concern for detail clarified both colour and content, of which Jeffrey Brown's solo horn and Prudence Whittaker's clarinet were but the most distinctive.

Noël Goodwin

Debuts

London

The Dutch harpsichordist Ton Koopman appears in this column only because he happens not to have given a solo recital in London before. Elsewhere he already enjoys an international reputation as "Holland's baroque superstar" (to quote the handbill), and the exuberant brilliance and imaginative boldness of his playing at once explained why. In demonstrative outtings with Sweelinck, Picchi and Rossi such high-powered, temperamental pursuit of virtuosity and colour at times almost overstrained the resources of the instrument itself (a 1978 Kroesbergen after Ruckers). Even in more reflective pieces such as Purcell's *Ground* and a *Chaconne* in C by Couperin his immediacy and generosity of feeling found expression in much richer sonority than commonly heard from a harpsichord. Bach's *Chromatic Fantasy* and *Fugue*, its contrapuntal argument expounded with exceptionally serious clarity and control, came as a reminder of the scholarly thinker behind the firebrand.

It was easy to understand why the violinist Kuniko

Nagata has collected many prizes in and beyond her native Japan. While never lacking ardour in climaxes, with warm, ripe tone and pungent attack to uphold it, at the same time she always retained a classical poise and finesse. Bartok's *Rhapsody No 1* was particularly impressive in this regard, with its intensity and refinement. Perhaps in the lyricism of Faure's first sonata (not least in the trio of its Scherzo) her phrasing needed nuances a little more personal. But this performance, too, presaged many happy returns to the London platform for this winningly natural young musician.

Australia was represented by the guitarist Timothy Kain, who with his controlled delicacy of fingerwork and purity of phrasing made Bach's third lute suite as eloquent as any symphony-of-a-thousand. Britten's Dowland-inspired *Nocturnal*, Op 70, benefited no less from his sensitive touch. Though a touch more flamboyant would not have come amiss in Guiliani's *Rossiniaria* No 1, this operatic potpourri was also outstanding for subtle shading and rhythmic and textural control.

In a courageous all-American programme the pianist Nanette Kaplan Solomon, now an assistant professor in Pennsylvania, played with a commanding masculine strength and determination to admit that the music itself could take it. In the drama of MacDowell's *Sonata Tragica* and the more insistent climaxes of Copland's *Variations*, but which in other contexts seemed too inflationary and clangy-toned for a solo recital, she was at her best. In three Preludes by Gershwin. But when able to relax with this last composer, and with Barber in his *Excursions*, she showed that it is not beyond her power to be more feminine and cajoling.

The week's only British debutants were the co-winners of the I.S.M.'s National Westminster Bank recital. The pianist Caroline Palmer made an outstandingly vivid impression in Ginastera's *Sonata* (admittedly not the profoundest test) with her clear-cut brilliance, rhythmic alacrity and keen ear for atmospheric sonority. Though describing herself as a contralto, Susan Mason lacked body in the depths while soaring freely and fleetly in mezzo-soprano territory. An eager teller in Purcell, Schubert and Strauss, she was always more persuasive in heightened drama or rapture than in intimate brooding despite promising control of line.

Joan Chissell

Why the Tory wets should dry up

Archie Hamilton, MP, writes an open letter pointing out the short-sightedness of Conservative colleagues who are disenchanted with Mrs Thatcher's policies

Dear Wet Colleagues,
I thought I would write to try to cheer you up as you seem to have been very nervous and unhappy lately. On the surface, things do not look too rosy. The economy seems to be taking longer to turn around than anyone expected. Unemployment remains stubbornly high. The SDP has done remarkably well despite the absence of any very visible policies. Your seat looks increasingly vulnerable, and it may be that you are hoping, for the first time in your life, that the Labour vote will hold up in your constituency, and so keep out the SDP at the next election.

You have suggested to me that we steal the clothes of the SDP and watch the voters return. I can quite see the temptation to make a dash for the reputation of a man who you call the centre. But the SDP have no clothes. They appeal to the electorate because they have not yet settled their policies. When they do, they will suffer an inevitable alienation as many people find they disagree with them.

In any case, drifting towards the position of the opposition parties is hardly likely to do us any good at the polls. If we adopt the policies of the opposition we are endorsing their claim to govern and inviting the voters to follow our example and support them.

There is another question I suggest you consider. Where is the centre? How right-wing is the Government? Has it adopted any very right-wing policies? It has not cut public expenditure, but it has increased it. It has not banned the closed shop. It has not denationalized education or health. I wish that it had done all of these things, as do many voters, but it is, in fact, very much a government of the centre.

This message is certainly not getting across well enough. And frankly, you are not helping by publishing pamphlets critical of government policy and abstaining in important votes.

There is one thing I find it very hard to understand about you. I know you are a man of strongly held moral convictions. Therefore you must accept that there is no other possible economic policy than an honourable government could have introduced, given the appalling long-term structural problems of the economy. You must also recognize that the majority in British houses of commons that the problems had to be faced squarely.

Now let us consider the pro-

posals you are urging on the Chancellor. Broadly, you want to see an expansionary budget to put about £5,000m into the economy so that economic activity will pick up and unemployment will go down. Laudable aims. But pumping money into the economy will not help our manufacturers enjoy sustained, wealth-creating growth. Nor would an expansionary budget really touch the unemployment problem. It might produce a small reduction for a short while, but when the inevitable surge in inflation took place another million could well be thrown out of work.

One of the claims you advance for your economic prescriptions is that they would be more humane. But the sufferings of the unemployed today are largely the result of wet policies adopted by successive governments during the last 20 years, both Labour and, I am afraid, Conservative.

If the Chancellor takes your advice, two things will happen. First, we will lose all credibility with the voters and they will be entitled to ask why they had to suffer exposure to the cold winds of economic reality if, all along,

our problems could have been solved by deflation. Second, the resulting inflation will destroy our credibility abroad, sterling will plunge, inflation will get worse, interest rates will have to go through the roof, all the very real improvements in our economic performance will have been thrown away.

Since I never hear you speak of the positive achievements of our Government, allow me, with the greatest respect, to remind you of them.

- Inflation is down from 22 per cent in 1980 to 12 per cent now. It will continue down, particularly if we have a sensible wage round this winter.
- Productivity is massively improved. There are many examples, not only in the private sector, but more surprisingly, in the nationalized industries: Leyland, British Steel, British Airways. Who would have thought in 1979 that British Steel would improve its output per man hour by 25 per cent, and at two plants, Port Talbot and Llanwern, by nearly 50 per cent in three years.
- The volume of exports is rising

fast. When measured between February and September of last year, non-oil exports were up at six per cent on an annual basis.

- Industrial production was up 1.5 per cent in the last quarter of last year and housing starts are up substantially.
- We are getting our housekeeping right as well. At the last election the country owed £22,000m to overseas creditors. It owes £14,000m now.
- Perhaps most important of all, there is an entirely new atmosphere at work. Both management and workers have started, at last, to recognize that they have the same objectives. All over the country people are buckling down and solving their problems together. Look at the record. Few days in 1967. Fewer industrial disputes in the last two years than at any time since 1940.
- Britain is on course for a gradual but sustained export-led economic recovery.

With these facts before you, dear colleague, why not make it your maxim for 1982 to stop carping and start spreading the good news.

Archie Hamilton

The author is MP for Epsom & Ewell and Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Secretary of State for Transport.



Roy Plomley (right) and two potential castaways: George Bernard Shaw said no, Paul McCartney gets marooned on Saturday.

Forty years on the island

On Saturday, to the familiar sound of seagulls, Roy Plomley's mellow voice will be heard on Radio 4 announcing his 1,629th castaway. Paul McCartney and Desert Island Discs will be 40 years old.

It is the longest running programme under the same compere in the history of radio, so old that one of its first possible guests was Bernard Shaw. Then, no one had heard of Roy Plomley. The invitation came back, scrawled along the bottom of the words: "No. Too busy with more important things. GBS". Few people, since, have resisted.

Like all inventors of a perfect idea, almost magical in its simplicity, Plomley remembers with absolute clarity the moment he dreamt it up. It was November 3 1941. He was back in London from France where, defying a 20-year family tradition in medicine, he had been working in commercial radio.

He was in his pyjamas on his way to bed when the notion came to him of inviting famous people to tell the world what music they liked best. Unlike most night-time inspirations, he decided not to put it off until the next morning: he typed the proposal and posted it. Sixteen days later the BBC replied: who would be his guests?

He had the list ready: Anna Neagle, J. B. Priestley, Arthur Askey, Kay Cavendish. Two months later the comedian Vic Oliver — then married to Winston Churchill's actress daughter Sarah — made history as the first castaway. He chose, Plomley recalls, *The Parade of the Wooden Soldiers* and some Chopin. Since that day the list has been off the air only one period, between 1947 and 1951. No other week has been missed.

Today the format is almost precisely what it was in 1942: a potted, slightly humorous autobiography, told by the guest, interspersed with two-minute extracts from eight favourite records. For the first ten years it was just music; then castaways were allowed to include one luxury, providing it had no practical use.

A few years later, came a book, not the Bible or Shakespeare because the Gideon Society and the Nonesuch had thoughtfully shopped them there first. Guests are not hard to come by. They need know nothing whatever about music, but they must be famous. As Plomley points out, a taste in music defines people, and in his 40 minutes he tries to give that dimension to people already known to the media by two.

One of the few to refuse since GBS is Laurence Olivier, who courteously explains each time he is invited that while he will give interviews about acting, he will not speak about himself.

As a radio event, *Desert Island Discs* prides itself on

its painlessness. There is no help and no rehearsal, but by the time the castaway is in the recording studio Plomley has done his homework: he has read much of whatever his guest may have written, boned up on newspaper cuttings, occasionally talked to mutual acquaintances.

The two are also by now friends. They have spent a pleasant day together, lunching (men at the Garrick, women at the Lansdowne), sifting through recordings and alternatives in the BBC's magnificent and still, as Plomley named, "gramophone" library. Long before the red button switches to record, the castaway knows he is in for no nasty surprises.

Forty years have naturally provided a list of top favourites. In symphonies Beethoven's fifth, sixth and ninth, Dvorak's New World and Schubert's Unfinished, *The Marriage of Figaro*, *Lara's Theme from Dr Zhivago* — as well as an enjoyable fund of anecdotes. There was, for instance, Elisabeth Schwarzenberg, a Viennese whose eight selections were of herself, the late Lord Thomson protested that he knew no music, then came up with eight 1930s dance numbers. Sir Arthur Bryant, wanted *Pat-a-Cake* by the Singing Dogs, Norman Mailer asked for a stick of marijuana as his luxury and the explorer Duncan Caruso wanted David Hockney and David Holbrook both chose pornography for their books. Harvey Smith declined one altogether, saying he had never read one.

The programmes have also provided Plomley with the framework for a happy life. Through *Desert Island Discs*, which takes two days of his week, he has made friends and acquired a considerable musical education, a quiet apart from money he has the foresight, years ago, to protect his idea, now used all over the world, by tight copyright.

It has left him the time to write 16 plays, a gossip and predictably urbane book about the programme, and the confidence now to keep on writing. Genial and smiling, bald and round-faced, he lives in Putney, in a Victorian house that leads down to the river and is, he says, about to fall down. His artistic study is lined with encyclopaedias, works of reference, a dog-eared Kobbe's guide to opera, novels, biographies.

Plomley also has a birthday next week, but which it is he will not say. He never intends to retire. "I am in that happy state that I do only the work I enjoy. I have no intention of stopping. One day they'll have trouble waking me, and that will be it." May that day be far distant, for *Desert Island Discs* would be unthinkable without him.

Caroline Moorehead

Catching the classical bus

In Czechoslovakia a folk-singer has recently composed a ballad called *Houska na starém mostě* (A flower on the old bridge). "Socrates has been tried, now he must pay the price; Such is the hero's lot, three cheers for cowardice." A police interrogator told one of the students arrested at Julius Tomin's seminar on classical philosophy in Prague: "Tell Tomin we'll get him — him and his Plato!" An ironic remark in the circumstances: had the policeman known about Plato's enthusiasm for censorship, he might have called for more Plato, not less.

This information comes from *Omnibus*, an impressive new magazine about the ancient world designed primarily for sixth-formers. Two numbers have already appeared, and a third is on the way. The editor, Oliver Taplin, a fellow of Magdalen College, Oxford, is himself practised at traversing the ground between high scholarship and wider communication; the author of an academic 500-page block-buster on *The Stagecraft of Aeschylus* (a snip at £20), he is also the man who told readers of *The Times* what to think about the *Oresteia*.

There has not been anything quite like this before. Some years back there used to be a magazine called *Acta Diurna*, written entirely in Latin, which covered the events of Roman history in the style and format of a modern newspaper. "Caesar means Rubicon: what next?" It was great fun, but perhaps more appropriate to the time when many of those who learnt Latin learnt it early. Never realized, alas, was Paul Jennings's noble scheme for a Hollywood epic about ancient Rome scripted in the original language, in spite of the specimens of dialogue supplied by its originator, eg. *Mei debet audire* ("Honey, you've got to listen"). In its own very different way *Omnibus* is also sensitive to the places where the classics are relevant to modern interests and issues; the editor confesses that he has to call the magazine *ADBC* "to bring out the indivisibility of past and present." A series called *The Classical Continuum* traces the small but intriguing ways in which the visual signs and symbols of the ancient world still surround us: the serpent of Asclepius in chemists' shops in central Europe, Mercury on the Interflora advertise-

ments, or, more piquantly, the fascist carved on Leeds Town Hall and engraved upon the old American silver dime, before Mussolini gave this ancient symbol a modern relevance of another kind.

Omnibus is resolutely topical in a variety of ways. The superb fifth-century Greek bronze recently discovered in the sea off Riace in southern Italy are illustrated. John Gould subtly investigates the feminism of Euripides' *Medea*, concluding that the heroine "analyses sense, not a woman that fifth-century Athenians might have met in their waking experience, but as a figure they might have imagined — and feared." That makes the play seem very close to the anxieties awakened in our own society by the breakdown of traditional assumptions about male superiority.

In an advance extract from the forthcoming *Cambridge History of Classical Literature* Niall Rudd brings out the violence and insecurity that surrounded literature in ancient life, things too often left out of the conventional picture of the poet as a middle-aged moderate. He observes also that the view of Horace as a model of polite good taste depends upon omitting two poems so deliberately discussing that commentators have often ignored them altogether.

Mike Brearley is interviewed and persuaded (with a little prodding) to explain how much the classics have meant to him; Denis Healey is to be the next to fill this slot. Kathy Wilkes describes the origin of Tomin's seminars, some of which she attended, and the story of their suppression. She argues that the authorities were rightly afraid of Tomin's teaching, freedom of inquiry being necessarily a threat to the regime's stability. That claim, which amounts to saying that a communist state cannot tolerate genuine academic work at all, is perhaps overstated; but like much more in *Omnibus*, it stimulates the reader to ask more questions.

The magazine reprints from a Sunday colour supplement a passionate plea by El Mooney for the retention of Latin in schools. *Omnibus* means "for all"; it will be splendid if the optimism implicit in the title proves justified.

Richard Jenkins

Rape: a direct line to reassurance



Rape counselling, New York style: Detective Ellen King talks to a victim.

The rape line at New York City Police Headquarters rang. Detective Ellen King had been on duty for 15 minutes and it was the first call of the day.

She spoke softly, reassuringly, giving her name and rank. The sister of a teenage rape victim was on the line in distress — her sister was attacked three months ago and she was still reliving the crisis. But that was not the only problem.

"Our father won't talk about it," she said. "He refuses to acknowledge that it happened. The subject is taboo. My sister is going crazy. We are all going crazy."

Detective King, aged 38, a former teacher, is one of 51 detectives in New York City assigned to four sex crimes squads. They are carefully selected for their manner: they are expected to be sensitive, patient and sympathetic.

Detective King listened for several minutes without interrupting. "It seems to me that your father needs counselling," she said eventually. "Let me give you some numbers to call. Do you mind if I send some literature to your sister for help?"

The police had already investigated the case, without result. Detective King was not performing a strict police function by giving guidance to the young woman on the telephone. Yet she did so readily. She believes that helping rape victims and their families is just as important as catching the culprit.

Picking up the vital black telephone

Each sex crimes unit is headed by a lieutenant and two or three sergeants. They investigate only first degree sexual assault and are responsible directly to the Chief of Detectives at police headquarters in Manhattan.

Most detectives in the rape squads are men. Detective King helps coordinate the work of four units as well as sharing the task of answering the 24-hour rape line. Only a woman police officer ever picks up that vital black telephone — the role of a policeman comes later.

Most victims prefer to be interviewed by a male police officer. "It is reassuring, a short time after the attack, to speak to a man who is kind and helpful," Detective King said. "It helps get your

perspectives of men back into order. In cases of attacks on children or highly disturbed women we send a female officer."

One of the functions of the sex crimes units is the education of doctors in what is called "rape protocol", the collection of essential evidence to use in court against an accused man. Detective King arranges seminars for all rape detectives given by

psychologists, psychiatrists and lawyers.

She lectures women's groups on prevention and awareness. "It is essential to persuade rape victims to go to hospital immediately. The attitude of a policeman is all important in helping a victim over the feeling of being dirty and violated. We call it sensitivity training." And with that, the telephone rang again.

When sympathy and understanding are essential

On her desk, amid the hubbub of police headquarters, there is a well-thumbed police directory containing scores of numbers and addresses of groups dedicated to the well-being of assault victims. Four are especially important: they are the hospitals that operate rape crisis programmes with short-term counselling to help victims over the first four to six weeks of trauma.

Many cities in the United States are highly organized in coordinating the police and welfare effort, but nine years ago, New York was among the first to establish specialized rape detectives. The fight, however, remains uphill. In 1970 there were 2,141 reports of rape in New York City and 919 convictions. In 1980 there were 3,711 complaints and 1,448 convictions.

"We still think we are making progress," Detective King insisted. "The attitude of a policeman is all important in helping a victim over the feeling of being dirty and violated. We call it sensitivity training." And with that, the telephone rang again.

Christopher Thomas

Desmond Wilcox and 'The Jews': a BBC inquiry

The news that Desmond Wilcox, France teacher and husband of Esther Rantzen, is hoping to write and present a television series called "The Jews" has led to an internal inquiry in the BBC.

In May 1977 Louis Marks, another freelance producer at present working in the plays department of the BBC, submitted an idea entitled "The Jews" to Aubrey Singer, then controller of BBC 2. Singer liked the idea, asked him to develop it further and sent him to the United States to look for a suitable presenter.

By the autumn, Marks had done a full-scale treatment outlining a series of 13 programmes covering the whole field of the Diaspora. His intention was that he should write or produce that year Singer thought that the time had come when the project should be moved forward and lodged with a programme department. He decided that a press announcement should be made saying that a series on the Jews was in preparation. Wilcox said an announcement would be premature.

Marks met Wilcox and all the material he had so far prepared — treatments, research, contacts — was handed to him together with a request that a press announcement should be made saying that a series on the Jews was in preparation. Wilcox said an announcement would be premature.

Soon after this Singer was promoted to become director of radio and within a year Wilcox left the BBC to become freelance. Bill Cotton, the deputy managing director of BBC television, is investigating the whole matter.

Yesterday Marks told me: "The matter is under discussion at the BBC and I would not want to make any further comment at this stage." Desmond Wilcox commented: "There is no problem as far as I am concerned and I am confident of the outcome."

I understand that Mr Wilcox's idea was to look at nine different Jewish families in nine different countries with a view to characterizing the contemporary condition of the Jews, whereas Mr Marks's idea was to include historical as well as contemporary material.

Willing for Dylan

Richard Burton's devotion to Dylan Thomas has induced him to abandon his role as Richard Wagner for 24 hours and fly from Vienna, where he is filming a series about the composer, to London for a memorial concert in Thomas's honour. He is expected to appear as the narrator in an edited version of *Under Milk Wood*, directed by Douglas Cleverdon, in the second half of the concert at the Duke of Yorks Theatre on February 28.

The show, which will also feature Anthony Hopkins, Peter O'Toole, Hywel Bennett and Angharad Rees, has been arranged to help pay for the £5,000 marble plaque to Thomas in

THE TIMES DIARY



Further bereavement in the animal kingdom as a reply to my sorry to say, following our report yesterday of the death of Hamlet, the New York Zoo revealed that, like Hamlet,

she died from kidney failure. A present from the American Strategic Air Command, Daphne arrived in London with Wilfred, another north American white pelican, but was widowed in 1962. She was much admired by staff at the park for her determination to decline bread and other dainties which the public offered despite the warning signs. In fact she was so fastidious that she refused the regulation mackerel diet and insisted on whiting.

She will be sorely missed.

Westminster Abbey's Poet's Corner and a replica of St Martin's Church, Laughrane, Burton, however, will not be able to attend the unveiling the following day, St David's.

Flying high

Lady Chichester unveiled an enterprising plan at her party last night to publish new editions of some of the books in which her husband Sir Francis, who died in 1972, recorded his extraordinary adventures.

The first of these, *Solo to Sydney*, about his flight to Australia in 1929 in a Gypsy Moth only five months after having learned to fly, is particularly sentimental value to Lady Chichester, née Sheila Craven. Chichester gave it to her as a wedding present in 1937. He and Sheila had met in Devon the year

before. She was a regular visitor to the golf course at Westward Ho and Chichester, who was staying nearby, was still recovering from a horrendous crash into the harbour at Katsura, Japan, in 1930. Flying into some telephone wires.

Lady Chichester told me: "I was staying with friends and one day Francis walked in. Somehow he had survived his injuries but he was still terribly nervous. Yet within a week he had asked me to marry him."

Lady Chichester, who has written a foreword to *Solo to Sydney* (Conway Maritime Press), reveals that her husband, though entranced by the idea of fresh adventures, did not always learn easily. She said: "I have seen him patiently practising fly-fishing in a square in Chelsea, like Matisse, who said: 'I have drawn this line a hundred times before I got it right.'"

Paul Elliott in 1970. He travelled the world with Triumph, starring in *Roar Like a Dove*. The Grass is Greener. A Christmas Carol and The Winslow Boy but last year he found himself suffering from homesickness for the West End.

"I had a beautiful travelling and I sold my agent it was time I came back to London. It's a take-over part, but it's such a good play," said Todd. "It may not be the sort of part you expect from me but at my age you look for challenges."



Todd's return

Richard Todd, the square-jawed hero of some 50 films in the 20 years after the war (including a number in which he won it single-handed) has quietly returned to the West End stage where he last performed in *Depravity* at the Haymarket in 1957. He has just replaced the equally suave Francis Matthews at the Duchess Theatre at Stone, the seedy little man obsessed with killing, in Richard Harris's thriller, *The Business of Murder*.

The chair, which is suitable for a child to use at normal table height, will be presented to the Prince at the opening of the Crafts Council gallery and information centre in London next

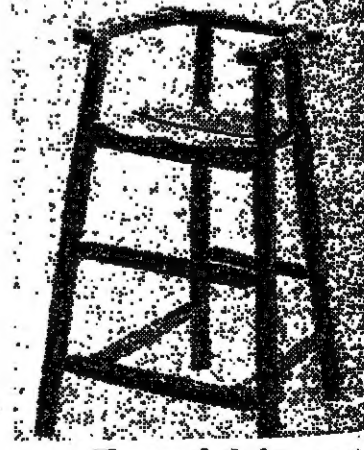
month. But will it have a safety harness to it fitted by then or will this be left to the Princess of Wales to organize?

Royal seat

I trust that the high chair made for baby of the Princess of Wales by Richard Le Trobe Bateman, the West Country designer, will have safety features incorporated before it is presented to Prince Charles next month. Le Trobe Bateman, whose work is included in the Crafts Council's index of selected craft work, has made it from an oak tree felled on the estate of the Marquis of Bath at Longleat.

The chair, which is suitable for a child to use at normal table height, will be presented to the Prince at the opening of the Crafts Council gallery and information centre in London next

month. But will it have a safety harness to it fitted by then or will this be left to the Princess of Wales to organize?



The royal chair safety harness?

Unsuitable?

More disturbing news from Savile Row where I last reported that Huntsman, the bespoke tailors and shirt-makers, was to introduce a range of off-the-peg suits and overcoats. Now *Wool of Mayfair* is offering its customers free cloth for any suit they order within the next six weeks. This unpleasant sign of the times means that a suit costing £450 there will be cheaper by up to £100.

Michael Horsnell



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THE UNION CENSORS

Tin pot dictators do it frequently. General Jaruzelski has just done it, civil servants are trained to do it, and now engine drivers and porters are doing it. They are trying to stop ideas and information they do not like reaching the wider public. Everybody believes in the freedom of the press until it affects a vested interest. Members of ASLEF and the National Union of Railwaymen are protecting the vested interest of their good name, they would say, in blacking the distribution by rail of *The Times*, *The Sunday Times*, *The Sun*, and *The News of the World*. They are, of course, doing no such thing. They are doing a grave disservice to their union and to the long struggle for the freedom of the press and the free flow of information in which working men have played as prominent a part as many an academic, journalist or parliamentarian.

The self-appointed censors who are standing guard at some of the main railway stations say they are expressing their anger because *The Sun* carried allegations by two young railway men about fiddles on the railway. They say the allegations are false. If that is so, the union censors are being very inept. They would have everything to gain from open press inquiry and examination of their case against *The Sun*. When *The Sun* published its report it aroused a legitimate interest in the public, which every other newspaper was eager to satisfy, to explore the allegations further and give them shade and context.

What do the censors have to

fear from that process of inquiry? Despite the mythologies peddled by the disruptive left, the national press is not in collusion. It is in competition. This includes *The Times* and *The Sun* which share both common ownership and editorial independence. From the process of diligent inquiry, therefore, the offended blackers would have had their grievance ventilated to the world. Of course if the allegations are true, and the union men know them to be true, or partly true, they are accomplices to fraud. In either case, the ease with which the censors have disregarded the legal machinery is disturbing. The undertakings given to the High Court on Sunday by two ASLEF officials were kept by them, but they extended to no others. Any future injunction sought and obtained, would apply only to those named in them. The possibilities for anarchic obstruction are endless. There is nothing very new about this. Freedom in any society depends upon a common consent and recognition of its value as much as it does on legal restraints and inhibitions.

It is sad, therefore, that so few responsible people have felt themselves able or willing or interested enough to speak about this blatant limitation. Every act of illiberality and censorship which is winked at merely prepares the ground for the next. As Henry Thoreau said of the first railway train, what we then see is merely 'wickedness going faster'. There is one quarter, of course, from whom one can expect more than rhetoric. It is

British Rail which employs the censors and it is British Rail which is failing to fulfil its contract to carry newspapers. They should institute their own disciplinary procedures forthwith.

Of course, there is underlying the anarchy at Kings Cross and elsewhere a suspicion among union members that the press is not on their side and that it is occasionally or even frequently harsh or unfair. There are some remedies for error and falsehood. There is a law of defamation which punishes damaging or malicious statements. There is the Press Council, though it admittedly takes time to establish the facts in any particular case and issue its rebukes or acquittals. But the most important thing is the diversity of the British press. It is not a monolith. That diversity would have played benevolently on the issues raised by the two railway workers. And in that diversity the power of any single newspaper to advance its own views is always limited by two factors: its acceptance by sufficient numbers of readers to assure its survival and by the journalistic integrity of its staff.

None of these answers is conclusive. Certainly they will not satisfy the paranoid or the mischievous. But the press does not claim to be perfect. It claims to be free. The press has no rights other than those of the ordinary citizen. It exercises its powers of inquiry and dissemination on his behalf and it is against the ordinary citizen that the blackers of Kings Cross are striking.

TIED IN TO SIBERIA

The French Government's decision to conclude a major gas deal with the Russians only a few weeks after President Reagan's announcement of trade sanctions against the Soviet Union is indicative to say the least. The French, who have been as outspoken as any Continental country in their condemnation of what is happening in Poland, must have known the propaganda advantage such a deal would give to the Russians and the damage it will do to the already frayed unity of the western allies in response to Polish events. Even if the French had felt that the deal was inevitable and right, they could have played the Russians at a distance for the time being until the moment was more propitious.

The problem for the French, and for the Germans who had already concluded a similar deal late last year before the military take-over in Poland, is that they want the gas and see all too many overwhelming commercial reasons for going ahead with it. While the United States Administration can hector the Europeans over the need to break relations with the Russians, the simple fact is that Russian gas has already taken on a major role in Europe's energy pattern and is now required to expand even more if that balance is to be maintained into the future.

The reason is the expected decline of the huge Groningen gas field in Holland. It has been on the back of growing exports from this field that North-west Europe has built up its gas industry, increasing the share of gas in the primary energy market from less than 5

per cent in 1970 to more than 15 per cent today. Without new supplies to replace Groningen, the major European countries could face severe problems in meeting demand during the latter part of the decade.

The alternatives to Russian supplies are far from attractive. Development of North Sea reserves, which could prove very considerable, has been held up by the conservationist approach of the Norwegians and the recent decision of the United Kingdom government not to back a major gas gathering pipeline system. To the south, both the Libyans and Algerians can, and do supply gas but have recently proved both greedy and unreliable. Russian gas in this context gives greater flexibility to the system, while the Russian need for foreign earnings has induced them to offer highly competitive prices. If the French have pursued Russian gas so forcefully, they can at least claim to have done more than any other European country to diversify their energy resources through an ambitious nuclear programme and through gas purchases from Algeria. And if others criticise the French, it has to be said that the British in particular have done nothing to develop either European energy policy or even a development of North Sea gas which might have been a counterpoint to Russian supplies.

It is on this point that Western European governments should think again about the current negotiations with the Russians. Over the longer-term, there

may well be good reason for negotiating additional contracts from the Russians. Although the latest sales will raise the proportion of Russian gas deliveries to demand in France, Italy and Germany to 30 per cent of gas use in the late 1980s, Russian gas will still form no more than 5 per cent of total energy use. The difficulty comes in flexibility. If there are no readily available alternatives, then the Russians will be able to use a sizable share of German and French gas supply to apply pressure either through price or in other more political ways. If the Europeans were prepared to develop a pipeline network capable of switching sources and reserve capacity in the North Sea, then the boot would be on the other foot. It would be the Russians that would find it difficult to switch exports, and the European customers who could ensure non-dependence.

As it is, there are many problems which are likely to delay if not completely undermine Russian plans to pipe gas from Siberia into western Europe. Their limited ability to pay for the pipe and equipment, their reluctance to buy that equipment from the Europeans and the continuing United States dominance of the technology are all casting a serious question mark over the project, whatever the sales contracts. But as it is, the Europeans need that gas. As long as there is no allied effort to develop policies to get round that, no one should blame individual countries such as France from doing what is necessary to give themselves a balanced fuel economy.

Oak shakes

From Mr Peter R. Steadman
Sir, I was most interested to read the letter from Mr Alec Clifton-Taylor (December 19, 1981).

In 1978 I, too, became aware that oak shakes were no longer readily available in the United Kingdom. (Shakes are handsplit and shingles are sawn automatically.)

Many of the church steeples and lych gates on which cedar shakes were being applied were originally designed to be covered with oak shakes. As a result, the renovation work did not always faithfully restore the original appearance.

Searching in Belgium and France, I discovered a French craftsman who had been manufacturing shakes from sweet chestnut (*Castanea Sativa*) for over 30 years. Sweet chestnut is in many ways more appropriate for the production of shakes.

The design of these shakes was identical to that of the traditional oak shakes used in England for many centuries. Since April 1981, the spires of three small churches have been re-covered with chestnut shakes with great success.

A craftsman has now set up a full-scale production using traditional production methods, and further projects will be completed this year.

Yours faithfully,
PETER R. STEADMAN,
3 Oak Tree Cottages,
Fyning Lane,
Rogate,
Petersfield, Hampshire.
January 14.

Economic tasks in the Highlands

From Sir Kenneth Alexander

Sir, Although, as Lord Kirkhill says (January 16), the words quoted by the Chairman of the Highland Board (January 13) were from the hydro board's annual report and not from the Act, the Act does put "collaboration in the carrying out of any measures for the economic development and social improvement of the North of Scotland district" alongside "meeting the demands of ordinary consumers as the hydro board's prime duties. In the light of the seriousness of the issues under consideration Lord Kirkhill should have made this clear.

As the pioneering work of providing electricity for small and dispersed communities throughout the Highlands and Islands is largely achieved, I would argue that economic development should now be given priority. This argument is reinforced when it is recognised that the Highland Islands stem particularly from the absence of secure employment for substantial proportions of the population of working age in particular communities. The Invergordon/Alness area is now the most threatened and depressed of such areas.

The Highlands and Islands would be helped more by taking the benefit of their hydro power in the form of much-needed employment and industrial growth than as a marginally reduced domestic rate for their electricity, a rate which the movement of relative costs would probably erode within a few years. I find it difficult to accept that the Act would block such an approach but, if this is so, amending legislation should be enacted.

Lord Kirkhill tells us that the hydro board has designed its stations to operate for a minimum number of hours per day, whereas the smelter requires a continuous supply. Nevertheless, if the proposed hydro charge were accepted by Government in principle, a low-cost supply could be provided. The total demand of the smelter for electricity is much less than the total supply of hydro power so that a book-keeping adjustment would enable the hydro board to operate the policy principle even though the actual supply to the smelter would not at present be entirely hydro.

One of the major, and continuing, upward shift in the relative prices of alternative sources of energy, earlier decisions to abandon further development of hydro power should be reviewed as part of a much-needed wider review of the capital investment programme for electricity generation in Scotland.

It is clear that the problems of the smelter extend beyond the cost of power, but painfully ironic that smelters can continue in production in other locations in the United Kingdom where the real costs of producing power considerably exceed the costs of producing hydro. The review I propose reinforces the case for short-term pump priming of the kind already suggested for the smelter by the Secretary of State for Scotland. When considered within the wider context of changes in the future pattern and costs of electricity your criticism of this proposal as "short-term reasoning" (leading article, January 8) may rebound.

Yours faithfully,
KENNETH ALEXANDER,
Ardnacraggan House,
Callander,
Perthshire.
January 16.

Papal visit

From Monsignor Ralph Brown

Sir, May I respond to the story by David Hewson (January 21) on the television rights and the papal visit to set the matter in its proper context.

More than six months ago discussions were already taking place about the desirability of having a film/video of the papal visit. It was considered that such a record should be a reflective film which analysed what the Holy Father had said in his addresses, and which would link his messages with the pastoral mission of the Roman Catholic Church in this country. It would provide an important educational aid long after the Pope had left the country. This kind of film would obviously be very different from immediate news coverage.

Because of the capital outlay involved in launching such a film record, it has been necessary to look at possible ways of guaranteeing its commercial viability. The proposal to limit television rights has been put to the papal visit organisers, but there has been no decision on the matter.

The media, especially television, will reach many more people than the few millions who could actually be present at events presided over by the Holy Father. The Church also recognises and commends the rich possibilities of the media. For these reasons the papal visit organisers wish to offer the fullest possible cooperation to the press and broadcasting media, and are already doing so.

I hope this serves to clarify the matter.

Yours faithfully,
RALPH BROWN,
Papal Visit Central Coordinator
for England and Wales,
St Vincent's Convent,
Carlisle Place, SW1.
January 22.

Mr Gerard Noel, whose letter we published yesterday, is Editor in Chief of *The Catholic Herald*, not the Editor, who is Mr Daniel Cunliffe.

The views Mr Noel expressed do not necessarily represent those of the paper.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Case for ethnic minority schooling

From the Leader of the Opposition in the ILEA

Sir, You report (January 23) Lord Scarman as saying that he would view with absolute horror the development of separate Islamic or Hindu schools; that his experience in Northern Ireland told him that one cause of the trouble there was the separate education of Protestant and Roman Catholic children, and that he did not want that to be mirrored in this country.

Following the publication of his balanced and widely acclaimed report on the Brixton disorders, April 10-12, 1981, I am hesitant to criticise Lord Scarman on any aspect of race relations, but there are issues here which deserve the most careful consideration.

The "voluntary-aided" or church schools are a traditional and important part of the maintained sector of education in England and Wales. They are extremely popular with many parents, a significant proportion of whom send their children to these schools because of their religious convictions, whilst others appreciate the structured and disciplined ethos which permeates many of these Anglican, Roman Catholic and, fewer in number, Methodist and Jewish schools.

Certainly, they make a significant contribution to parental choice in education, and usually give, for those who want it, a very real expression to the

requirements for religious instruction contained in the 1944 Education Act.

My experience as Leader of the Opposition on the Inner London Education Authority leads me to believe that there is a growing demand within certain sections of our society for the establishment of voluntary-aided schools whose religious basis is other than that of the Christian church.

Is it right, in a pluralist society, to oppose the establishment of such schools? If so, might we not have, in justice, to question the continued existence of church schools within the maintained sector?

I am sure that I cannot be alone in believing that church schools make a necessary and desirable contribution to education, and in feeling that the concept of voluntary-aided Islamic and Hindu schools is one which is not unworthy of serious discussion.

There is a dilemma here. On the one hand is the fear, expressed by Lord Scarman, that such a proposal would lead to sectarian divisions within society; but on the other hand, it is surely hypocritical for us to stress the importance of encouraging minority groups to retain pride in their cultural heritage, while at the same time denying them a very practical means of so doing.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID SMITH,
Members' Lobby,
The County Hall, SE1
January 24

ILEA representation

From the Chairman of the Inner London Education Authority

Sir, While fully supporting the views expressed in his letter (January 16) by the Leader of the Inner London Education Authority, Bryn Davies, on the necessity to preserve the unified education sector, I have to express reservation on the question he deals with relating to membership of the authority. As Mr Davies says, both I and my vice-chairman are representatives of our borough councils. I should point out in passing that neither of us is a member of the powerful policy committee, which currently consists of 12 members, has only two from the boroughs.

Both of us feel as a result of our experience on the authority, that the balance of 13 borough members to 35 GLC/ILEA members does not allow borough attitudes sufficient strength. This is particularly evident when the subject of restructuring is under view. It is interesting to recall that, in its evidence to the Young Committee some 18 months ago, the ILEA proposed that the borough membership of the authority should be doubled. That evidence was agreed by the Labour group and subsequently

was accepted by subcommittees and the full authority.

One of the factors supporting the need for a new look at the composition of the authority is the imminence of parliamentary/GLC boundary changes, which will inevitably result in still fewer inner-London seats. The resulting reduction in GLC/ILEA members will have to be compensated for by an increase in borough members if there are to be sufficient numbers to carry the heavy workload.

All Labour members in ILEA are totally committed to resist Government demands for massive cuts which would inevitably seriously damage education provision. Nevertheless, at a time when the boroughs are faced with intolerable decisions about the level of services their ratepayers can sustain and are looking at all possible ways of saving money without damaging cuts, it would be helpful to have more members at County Hall who are daily having to deal with the competing claims for scarce resources.

Yours etc.,
ANN S. WARD, Chairman,
Chairman's Room,
The County Hall, SE1.

Sugar discrimination

From the Ambassador of Barbados to the EEC

Sir, You have done ACP (African, Caribbean and Pacific) sugar producers a genuine service by publishing the thoughtful letters of Lord Campbell (January 5) and Lord Jellicoe (January 9) on the subject of the long-called negotiations between the European Community and ourselves on cane sugar prices for the 1981 crop. I can only welcome this small breach in the wall of silence with which the media in Europe have surrounded a problem with such profound repercussions for the populations of a large number of developing countries, most of them members of the Commonwealth.

I am particularly grateful to Lord Campbell for the cogent manner in which he has set out the case for an early settlement of a dispute which has now lasted seven months, and has left ACP producers without a guaranteed price for their 1981 cane sugar at a time when many countries, including my own, are getting ready to reap their 1982 crop.

One statement in Lord Jellicoe's letter is, however, somewhat troubling. He refers to the 2 per cent levy which the Community imposes on its own Quota A sugar, an internal measure designed to discourage overproduction of beet sugar, and draws the curious conclusion that even an increase of 7½ per cent for ACP sugar would give ACP countries an advantage vis-à-vis EEC producers with an increase of 8½ per cent.

It is true that Sir Moses took a very deep and personal interest in the Holy Land, then part of the Turkish Empire, making seven visits there and contributing a very great deal to the agricultural and economic future of the indigenous population, even building a Kenish-type windmill outside Jerusalem. But he also, during a long life of over 100 years, paid visits on many occasions to Russia, Poland, Germany, Rumania, Morocco, Turkey, Egypt and Italy to try and alleviate the disabilities under which his co-religionists suffered.

Sir Moses, during his lifetime, discussed with his wife where they should be buried and they jointly picked the spot in the grounds of the synagogue which he had built at Ramsgate.

Sir Moses was an intensely loyal Englishman. The Spanish Portuguese Jewish Congregation, of which he was and now I am a member, some years ago refused a request to transfer its remains to Israel, and many of my family feel strongly with me that he and

This conclusion manages to be both canard and red herring; the price for ACP sugar is supposed to be set on the basis of a protocol which strictly limits the amount of ACP sugar which can come into the EEC market. It is hard to see why the ACP should be caught up in the toils of purely internal disincentive programme.

When it is borne in mind that ACP producers must pay, out of the price they receive, the cost of freight to their sugar from distant ports to the European markets, it is a little hard to be asked to swallow the Mies van der Rohe thesis that "less is more".

Lord Jellicoe also suggests, somewhat puzzlingly, that there is ACP resistance to the revised commission proposal for an increase of 8½ per cent for ACP sugar coupled with the abolition of the present storage levy on ACP sugar. I must categorically state that this is not the case. While I fully agree, for the reason which Lord Jellicoe advances, on the inequity of this levy, I must point out that this too is an internal Community matter in which ACP views, pro or con, weigh even less than they do in the annual ritual in which the Community unilaterally fixes the price to be paid for ACP sugar, and, emulating Orwellian semantics, calls the process "negotiation".

Yours faithfully,
OLIVER JACKMAN,
(Chairman, ACP Subcommittee on Sugar),
14 Avenue Lloyd George,
Brussels.

his wife's remains should stay undisturbed at Ramsgate. This, I believe, is also the wish of that borough.

Yours faithfully,
O. R. M. SEBAG-MONTEFIORE,
Brook Hall,
Finchingfield, Essex.

A diary in question

From Lady Walley

Sir, What a ridiculous argument it is that doubts as to the authenticity of a diary should be thought to destroy its value. The *Diary of a Farmer's Wife* has given pleasure to my family (and to friends to whom I have introduced it) since I came across it in the fifties; and I have time that it was reprinted. (I agree that the price is high for a paperback.)

If the book is not based on genuine records, it should join the ranks of fame with such books as the *Grossmiths' Diary of a Nobody* and *Daisy Ashford's The Young Visiters*. But to me the diary feels too human for complete invention — and that it deviates from "received" sociological history on some points only strengthens the impression.

Yours faithfully,
ELISABETH M. WALLEY,
46 Rotherwick Road, NW11.
January 23.

Marlborough plate dispersal fear

From Mr Arthur Grimwade

Sir, Pursuant to your article (January 20) on the gold wine coolers from Althorp, may I, as author at the late Lord Spencer's request of a series of articles on "Silver at Althorp" in *The Connoisseur*, 1962-64, and a subsequent booklet on the same subject for sale to visitors to the house, express my deep concern, shared I know by others in the museum world, as to the future of the famous Marlborough ambassadorial plate, which came to the Spencer family through the bequest of the great Duke's widow, Sarah, to her favourite grandson, John Spencer.

This remarkable group of silver, last seen in London at the Victoria and Albert Museum, some 15 years ago, rarer, in fact, in its own kind than any of the Althorp pictures in their, was issued to the duke, one of England's two greatest generals, through the Royal Warrant Office as his perquisite of office as Ambassador Extraordinary to the States General of Holland in 1701, and carried in his train throughout his famous campaigns of the century. Without contradiction the greatest surviving single group of official plate issued to one man, it comprises the large wine cistern, 4ft wide, by Philip Riolis, the smaller cistern and matching fountain by Pierre Harache, the pair of superlative ewers and dishes by the same famous Huguenot maker, and the huge pilgrim bottles by John Goode.

As well as these there are the exceedingly rare pairs of French ewers of 1674 and pilgrim bottles of 1657, and, lastly, the gift of Louis XIV to "Colonel Churchill" as the duke then was, for his services to the French king as commanding officer of the English regiment in France in 1673.

That this remarkable group of the finest period of English (and French) silversmiths' art (with some pieces associated with the first duke) should, through any financial stress, ever come to be dispersed piecemeal (as already suggested in effect by the reported offer of the gold icepails to the British Museum) would surely be an event in the field of the decorative arts of this country to be averted at all costs, and to be given top priority by the National Heritage Memorial Fund should such fears actually materialize.

Yours truly,
ARTHUR GRIMWADE,
Garrick Club, WC1
January 21.

Computers and privacy

From Professor P. A. Samet

Sir, Mr Meacher, in his article about computer files and invasion of privacy (January 20), makes the common mistake of confusing the protection of individual rights regarding privacy with the way in which personal information can be stored.

Information is no less sensitive when it is held outside a computer system than within one, which is why the Lindop Committee was concerned with data protection, whereas the original White Paper which led to the committee's establishment had been concerned only with computers. The problem is misuse of and traffic in information, not how this is done.

The ready availability of cheap microprocessors has led to a situation in which it is virtually impossible to enforce laws about computerized storage of information. Legislation which cannot be enforced brings the law into disrepute and is best avoided.

Yours faithfully,
PAUL SAMET,
Professor of Computer Science,
Computer Centre,
University College London,
Gower Street WC1.
January 21.

Unversed

From Mr P. J. Hope

Sir, The case is worse than Lord David Cecil (January 13) imagines.

Last year my daughter took the Associated Examining Boards O-level examination in English literature and her set books were as follows: *The Old Wives' Tale* (Arnold Bennett); *The School for Scandal* (Richard Brinsley Sheridan); *Four Modern Story Tellers* (stories by Maugham, Lessing, Samsom and Fitzgerald); *My Family and Other Animals* (Gerald Durrell); *The Siege of Krishnapur* (J. G. Farrell).

Not only no poetry whatsoever but not even "the compulsory Shakespeare play" — and if I may say so without disrespect, a very odd selection of English literature indeed for an O-level examination.

Whilst applauding the general theme of Lord David Cecil's letter and deploring the fact that my daughter read no poetry at school, this is not a matter of "state or private" education but apparent blindness or lack of judgment on the part of the examining boards, or at least one of them.

Yours faithfully,
P. J. HOPE,
Elmwood,
Hightown, Merseyside.
January 15.

Proper names

From Mrs Jane Booth

Sir, I recently received a letter addressed to "The Grave". I was somewhat put out that the Post Office had no apparent difficulty in deciding its destination.

Yours faithfully,
JANE BOOTH,
The Grange,
Claverdon,
Warwick.
January 21.

Social sciences

From Professor Robin Marris

Sir, It seems unlikely that the attitude displayed on the letters you have published on the subject of social sciences research so far represents the weight of professional opinion, especially of opinion among the younger generation of academics and research workers who, being very busy, are less prone, Sir, to write to you.

Professor Ferns's grievances (January 21) are particularly difficult to comprehend. He complains that the Social Science Research Council method of judging proposals has impaired the autonomy of universities in initiating research. To this there are two rejoinders.

Firstly, before the advent of the SSRC there was not much money in this country for any social science research, and much of what there was came from American foundations who were showing increasing reluctance to subsidise national responsibilities in developed countries.

Secondly, what on earth is wrong with the principle that research proposals are best evaluated by committees of professionally competent persons advised by anonymous referees? This is the method found most effective in other countries, and especially by the United States National Science Foundation which provides funds for both natural and social science. The practices of the NSF are part of a general American approach to the support of research that is

widely believed to have been the main cause of the extraordinary United States performance in recent decades, in the Nobel Prizes for natural science and economics.

A recent article on your feature page (January 15) showed that a substantial part of the SSRC's money goes to "economics. Ten years ago worldwide opinion saw British economics in a state of doldrums, if not decline. Today the same forum is increasingly recognising a new generation of original, rigorous, statistically sophisticated and politically detached young economists who are currently teaching and researching in British universities.

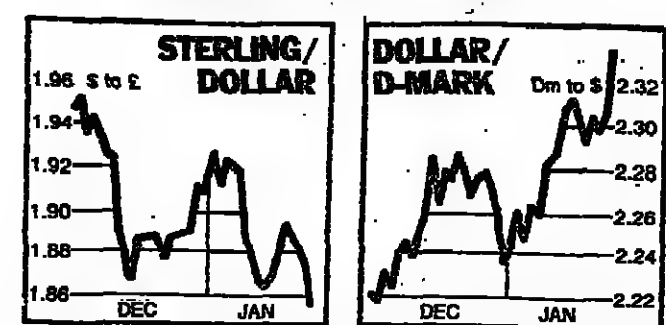
No reasonably objective observer could escape the conclusion that the SSRC has been a significant factor in the recovery. The reasons are to be found not only in the actual provision of funds but also in the process by which they are awarded, namely a process which is both competitive and exacting.

Although academics, like all animals, will sometimes scratch each others' backs, they are also exceptionally quick to criticise bogus or sloppy proposals. In setting high standards for the award of funds, the SSRC has also raised standards of research. Perhaps this is what has riled Professor Ferns.

Yours, etc.,
ROBIN MARRIS,
Birkbeck College,
University of London,
Department of Economics,
7-15 Gresse Street, W1.
January 22.

BUSINESS NEWS

US rates rise fear



Friday's warning American money supply figures sent shivers through world financial markets yesterday as they waited to see how the Federal Reserve Board would respond. Fears that United States interest rates are set for a fresh surge boosted the dollar, with central bank intervention making little headway. Eurodollar deposit rates and the key Federal Funds rate rose sharply, though they eased a little towards the end of European trading when the Federal added reserves to the United States banking system. In London, the American news put paid to any further decline in interest rates, which had been a shade. Good trade figures had little impact on the pound which lost nearly 7 cents, falling to \$1.8545. The FT index dropped 9.5 to 557.7.

Grade 'asked £5 a share'

Lord Grade, former chairman of Associated Communications Corporation, originally asked £5 a share to sell his voting stake to Mr Robert Holmes a Court, the Australian financier, the High Court was told yesterday. The asking price was 36 per cent above the 320p share which the Australian is now offering in his £36m bid. The hearing continues today in the attempt by Heron International, the rival bidder, to block the Australian bid.

De Lorean board meets

Mr John De Lorean, head of the troubled Belfast-based car maker, has called a board meeting in New York today to consider proposals put to him last week by Mr James Prior, Secretary for Northern Ireland. Two Northern Ireland Development Agency members with seats on the board will be at the meeting, which is expected to produce a salvage deal that may include redundancies and a cut in production.

Consumers spend savings

Consumer spending rose by 1 per cent between the third and fourth quarters of 1981, preliminary official figures show, suggesting that people are using savings to offset the squeeze on incomes. Spending in 1981 as a whole was 4 per cent up on 1980, compared with a Budget forecast of a 1 per cent fall.

Cut by NatWest

National Westminster is encouraging use of the Government's loan guarantee scheme by cutting the interest rate it charges from 2 1/4 to 1 1/4 per cent above base rate. This makes NatWest the cheapest of the clearing banks on this scheme.

Textile ruling

Mrs Pamela Mason, ex-wife of actor James Mason, is to be replaced as administrator of the £1.3m estate of her father, textile tycoon Isidore Oster, a High Court judge ruled yesterday. She had acted irresponsibly and surreptitiously in carrying out her duties as administrator, and running the estate's main asset, the Bradford-based woollen textile company, Illingworth Morris, the judge said.

- Dreams of building an industrial empire in the Amazon jungle have come to an abrupt end. Page 15
- Which way for the stock markets? Page 14

MARKET SUMMARY

An end to the euphoria

LONDON EXCHANGE

FT Index 557.7 down 9.5
FT 100 63.52 down 0.63
FT all-share 319.95 down 3.44
Bargains 21.749

Fears that the jump in United States money supply would mean higher interest rates ended last week's euphoria over lower rates at home and the market started the new three-week account with losses across the board.

The FT Index closed down 9.5 at 557.7, its lowest point of the day. Gains suffered the greatest falls, with losses of 2 1/4 at one stage although they recovered later on news of the December trade surplus to end the day with falls of £1-£1 1/4.

Leading equities followed with falls of between 3p and 10p, including Unilever at 640p, ICI 328p, Lucas 228p and Hawker at 320p.

Banks were also down, in a tight market, and among the falls were Barclays 13p off at 450p, Grindlays down 2p at 180p and NatWest slipping 15p to close at 400p.

But after the traumatic Smith St Aubyn experience there was some welcome relief in results from discount house Mercantile House, which responded to more than doubled profits with a 5p improvement to 48p. Alexander's Discount rose 13p to 252p after its results, with Union up 15p to 423p in advance of Wednesday's figures.

Pittington slid 15p to 278p after adverse press comment on the state of European glass production. Elsewhere reorganizational plans due to be announced today by Mr Geoffrey Kent, chairman, gave a 2p boost to Imperial Group to 77p, while press mention produced a 15p rise to 61p for Pittard.

Fears that the United States Congress may block the £60m British Aerospace 'Hawk' contract clipped 3p from BAS at 203p.

Results today supported Allied Textiles, up 3p at 185p on better than expected figures, but disappointing news unsettled D. S. Smith, down 3p at 95p, and Moggit, 1 1/2p weaker at 15 1/2p.

Oil remained dull and generally steady as the sector remains under a cloud, according to one dealer, but there was steady selling with BP down 8p at 298p and Ultramar losing 8p to 430p. Properties were generally easier, with falls of 4p to 6p.

Rank Organisation provided the main feature in after-hours trading with the shares leaping 2 1/2p to 196p on news of better than expected profits but came back on profit taking to 189p.

RTZ has at least won its lengthy battle for the control of Tiscot Ward after brokers Hoare Govett picked up a further 700,000 Ward shares and together with acceptances took RTZ's stake over 50 per cent the day before the offer was due to lapse. But RTZ stayed at its market close 2p lower at 427p on news that it had won the struggle while Ward remained unchanged at 230p.

News that the RTZ offer had gone unconditional was welcomed by Mr Derek Birkby, chairman of the Ward subsidiary Tunnel Holdings, who said that no decisions over price had yet taken place between the two groups. Tunnel shares were unchanged at 535p.

Elsewhere on the takeover front, Rowntree fell 10p to 154p on the offer for Huntley and Palmer which rose 3p to 111p, well above the terms and in anticipation of a rival offer from Allied Lyons, 3p down 70p.

Speculative interest gave a 3p boost to Rank's Movie McDougall but Associated Entities lost 6p to 140p in front of half-year figures due on Wednesday.

Equity turnover on January 22 was £235,048m (21,928 bargains).

Gareth David

COMMODITIES

● Cocoa trading was cautious while members of the International Cocoa Organisation executive committee met in London to decide whether to take up the offer of a loan from Brazilian banks.

The near March position maintained its premium over May, at £1,180.50 a tonne, £22 more than May. Traders said they did not expect further buffer stock intervention before this week's talks are concluded.

The executive committee must decide whether to recommend to the full ICCO meeting tomorrow that it should borrow \$75m (£40.4m) or £120m or find another way of financing the buffer stock manager's market intervention. One condition for the loan, to which European banks may contribute, is that the export levy be raised.

● For the second trading day in succession, standard cash in set a record trading high on the London Metal Exchange, reaching £8,710 per tonne during the morning session. At the afternoon close, standard cash was trading at £8,670 per tonne. The market remained in the grip of an extremely tight technical situation.

CURRENCIES

● The dollar rose sharply on expectation of higher US interest rates. Sterling hit a 'low' of £1.8500 before rallying.

LONDON CLOSE
Sterling \$1.8545 down 185 points
Index 90.7 down 0.2
DM 4.3350
Fr.F 11.0150
Yen 425
Dollar Index 110.5 up 1.2
DM 2.3357 up 290 points
Gold \$372.00 down \$2.75

MONEY MARKETS

● Period rates firmed slightly in response to US trends. The Bank of England's Band 1 intervention rate remained at 13 per cent.

Domestic rates:
Base rates 14
3-month interbank 14 1/4-14 1/2
Euro-currency rates:
3-month dollar 15 1/4-15 1/2
3-month DM 10 1/4-10 1/2
3-month Fr.F. 15 1/4-15 1/2

Trade figures show £331m surplus as government adviser is optimistic for 1982

N Sea oil sales push Britain into the black

By Melvyn Westlake

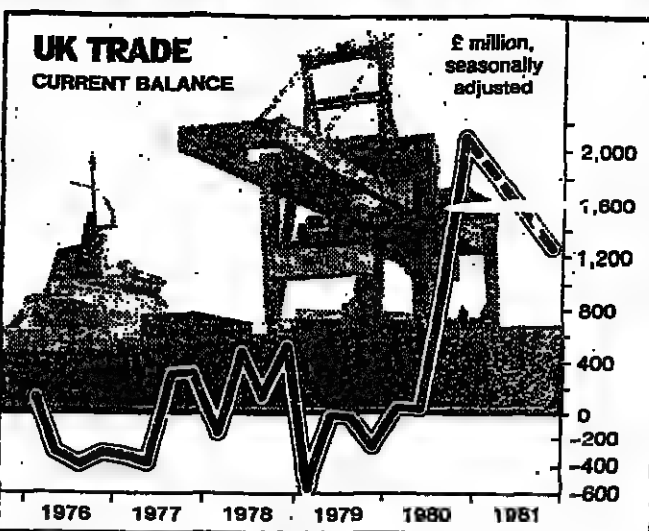
Britain's visible trade with the rest of the world showed a big surplus in December. It exported £331m more in value than it imported. But the surplus is more than accounted for by the sale of North Sea oil. Exports and imports of other goods were down from the peak November levels.

Exactly what has been happening to Britain's trade remains obscured by the civil servants' dispute which prevented figures being collected for six months. The best estimate for 1981 is that there was probably a surplus of £6,000m on the current account, which includes invisible transactions — trade in services, remittances of profits from abroad and government payments.

This would be twice the size of the surplus in 1980, and the sixth surplus in 12 years. In December alone, the current account was £498m in the black.

In a statement yesterday, Mr John Biffen, Secretary of State for Trade, said the 1981 surplus was probably the biggest achieved by any major industrial nation.

However, this is largely the result of the economic recovery of basic materials and capital goods, which he saw as a good augury of Britain's continuing recovery



their shelves and warehouses of their existing stocks.

There are clear signs of imports picking up again strongly in the last quarter of 1981. They were up more than 20 per cent by volume compared with the same quarter a year earlier (excluding erratic items like ships, precious stones and North Sea installations).

In his statement, Mr Biffen referred to the growth in imports of basic materials and capital goods, which he saw as a good augury of Britain's continuing recovery

would rapidly be converted into a deficit.

Mr Biffen also placed a special emphasis yesterday on the relatively good success of exports despite fears that exporters would be crippled by the high exchange rate of the pound until recently. This made Britain's overseas goods very uncompetitive on foreign markets.

In the fourth quarter, the volume of exports was higher than the quarterly average in 1980 and 1979, even excluding oil and erratic items. On this basis, exports in the last three months of last year were some 6 per cent up on the same period of 1980. However, the export growth over that period was a good deal less than for imports.

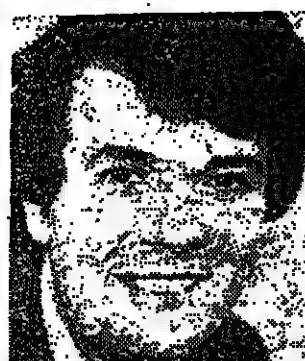
The recent decline in the value of the pound against other currencies will have come just in time to help exporters struggling to maintain their share of the market.

Even by the early summer of 1981 Britain had begun to make a little of the competitiveness lost between 1978 and the beginning of 1981.

During this period competitiveness deteriorated by about 50 per cent. Some estimates now put the net loss of competitiveness at a little over 30 per cent.

Burns predicts growth over 1pc

By Frances Williams



Terry Burns: optimistic but cautious

Economic growth this year could well exceed the 1 per cent forecast by the Treasury in December, Mr Terry Burns, the government's chief economic adviser, said in a cautiously optimistic speech on economic policy and prospects yesterday.

Stressing the vagaries of the money supply, sterling M3, he paved the way for a shift of emphasis in the Government's medium term monetary strategy to give more prominence to the exchange rate.

The Chancellor is due to present a updated version of the medium-term plan which sets targets for monetary growth and public borrowing some years ahead, when he delivers his Budget on March 9.

Mr Burns gave no sign that Treasury Ministers were preparing to soften significantly their tough stance on monetary growth and public spending, despite demands by their "wet" critics which will be aired when the Cabinet discusses Budget strategy on Thursday.

Mr Burns, who was addressing a conference on "Pay this winter" organized by the Industrial Society in London, said that a slow recovery was now under way. "Our December forecast looked to a growth of 1 per cent in gdp in 1982 and there may be a greater chance of this being exceeded than the economy falling short of it", he said.

He did not say, however, whether new Treasury forecasts, to be published with the Budget, show a higher growth rate.

He admitted that in the past two years sterling M3 alone had not proved a good indicator of monetary conditions which had been in fact restrictive. Significantly he reminded his audience that last year's Budget speech had made it clear that other monetary measures and the exchange rate would be taken into account when setting short term interest rates.

Glimmer of hope for smelter

By Derek Harris Commercial Editor

An evaluation of the prospects for reopening the Invergordon aluminium smelter closed by British Aluminium is expected to be made shortly by Alumax of California.

This follows an intervention by Mr Ian MacGregor, British Steel Corporation chairman, who was chief executive of Amax, the United States metals conglomerate which owns half of Alumax.

Mr MacGregor said yesterday: "I did not encourage my colleagues at Alumax or elsewhere to attempt anything at least they should give the people in Invergordon the chance to say their story."

Alumax, which is also half Japanese-owned, has been aggressively expansionist in recent years. Invergordon, where the workforce of 890 was made redundant yesterday and is staging a sit-in, would give Alumax substantial extra capacity.

There are two crucial problems facing Alumax just as much as other international companies — believed to be about six.

The main problem is the cost of electricity, the biggest single cost in any smelting operation. British Aluminium had been paying up to 1.7p per unit while the two other British smelters were paying rather less than 1.5p.

The board believes that if the electricity cost was cut to that for the other smelters, Invergordon has a chance of economic operation. A prospective purchaser is likely to want even lower costs, probably under 1p per unit, meaning changes in legislation with Invergordon regarded as a special case.

British aluminium's estimated asking price for Invergordon of around £20m would also probably be regarded as too high.



Dipping in the biscuit barrel: Mr Kenneth Dixon, chairman of Rowntree Macintosh, with (left) Mr Gordon Palmer, Huntley chairman, and (right) Sir Keith Shorrocks, head of Allied-Lyons which owns 4 per cent of Huntley and may put in a rival bid.

Sweet suitor for Huntley

By Margaret Pagano

Chocolate maker Rowntree Macintosh yesterday launched a £75m bid for biscuit manufacturer Huntley & Palmer. If Rowntree succeeds in its venture it would be a commercial union of two of Britain's oldest and most traditional companies. Both were founded by men who have had a lasting impact on British life.

The brothers Samuel, George and William Palmer, with Mr Thomas Huntley, in 1841, started a biscuit company that brought romance, money, and world-wide notoriety to the town of Reading. The Palmer family have been benefactors to the town through funds to the local university, the Royal Berkshire Hospital and so on.

In turn Mr Joseph Macintosh, founder of the great cocoa business at York in the mid-1800s, built on the old quaker firm of Tuke & Co, to beat the statesmen of his time to introduce factory insurance, insurance, profit-sharing and works councils in his enterprise.

Mr Gordon Palmer, the present chairman of Huntley & Palmer, now probably the victim of a stock market auction, still continues the

the two companies produce a number of well-known brands. These include: HUNTLEY & PALMER Biscuits, Jacobs, Peck Frean, Chiltonian and Trio. Snack Foods: Big D Special dry roast peanuts, Smith's Crisps and Borden's sweets. Rowntree Macintosh Confectionery: Quality Street, Kit Kat, Smarties, Yorkie, After Eight, Aero, Mint Imperials, Rowntree Fruit Gums, Fox's Glacier Minis, Black Magic, Blue Riband, Sun Pat Nuts and Peanut Butter.

family patronage of old interests through his chairmanship of the Royal College of Music. He is also the Lord Lieutenant of Berkshire and was on the council of Reading University where a cousin was once Chancellor.

But a battle for a share in this old-established family business looks almost certain to break out with rival suitors in the wings. Now Rowntree has finally put its cards on the table. With

the market reflecting that the Rowntree bid looks cheap — as perhaps it appears on Huntley's forecast recovery and assets — the City will be expecting other contenders to step in.

The tussle is over market share in a mature British market for confectionery, biscuits and snacks which may have reached saturation. Cadbury, Mars and Rowntree dominate that market with nearly 80 per cent and survival outside the present growing, but slow, markets appears to depend on strength inside the United Kingdom or by acquisition abroad. All by these companies could be interested in Huntley and Allied-Lyons, has already got a 4 per cent stake in Hartleys. Allied once the favourite to launch a bid, is still expected to join the fight.

At Huntley the strong man behind the board appears to be Dr Keith Bright brought in a few years ago by Mr Palmer, who is 63. It has been his responsibility to direct the recent rationalizations and the overseas acquisitions with companies in France and Germany and to take a more aggressive stand on marketing.

Project in jeopardy despite French deal

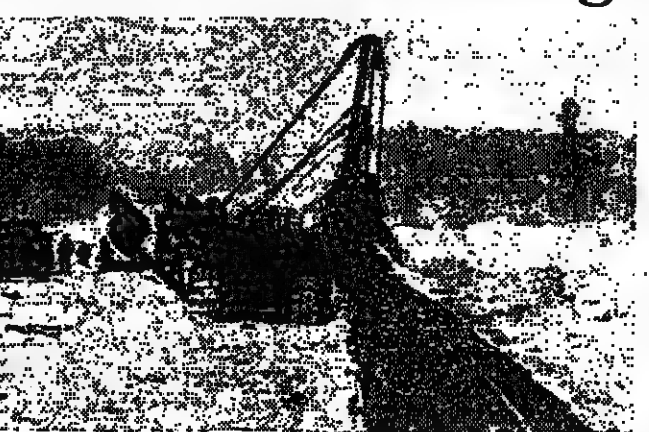
Gloom persists over Siberian gas pipeline

France's decision to sign a 25-year contract to buy gas from the Soviet Union has done little to lift the gloom surrounding the Siberian pipeline project in Western Europe.

What was once celebrated as the greatest East-West trade deal is clouded by the United States refusal to Western European manufacturers at the small volume of orders from the Russians and a deterioration in Moscow's standing among European bankers.

Completion of the deal, by which the Soviet Union should supply Western Europe with 40,000 million cubic metres of natural gas a year for a quarter of a century from Western Siberia and which was supposed to show-er industrial orders worth at least \$10,000m (£5,400m) on the West. Is almost certain to be delayed. The target of 1984 for the first gas deliveries looks increasingly implausible, while pessimists believe the entire project could collapse.

Failure to complete the project would deal a severe blow to the Soviet Union, which experts to achieve an annual hard currency income of at least \$10,000m from gas



Soviet workers laying gas pipeline in Siberia

sales. The damage to Western industry and jobs would be more immediate, but relatively slight because the Russians have failed to live up to expectations in placing orders associated with the project.

West Germany, which invested a great deal of political prestige in the project, is feeling badly let down by the Soviet Union's purchasing policy.

The deal was originally expected to produce orders for pipes and plant worth some DM20,000m (£4,650m)

and German industry expected to receive the lion's share.

The current ceiling of orders is nearer DM10,000m as the Russians have quietly reduced the scope of the project. So far it is thought that German industry has received firm orders for equipment worth less than DM1,000m.

France, Italy, Japan and Britain have profited at the expense of the Germans but the DM10,000m order ceiling is still far from being fulfilled because the Soviet

Union has decided not to order the pipes for the project in advance but to negotiate annually with Western suppliers.

This tactic, designed to force Western plant makers to cut prices under the threat of losing orders to their competitors, could backfire on the Russians if Western sanctions are toughened beyond their present level.

When first mooted, the plan was for natural gas to be piped from the Yamal peninsula in the far north of Siberia over a double pipeline to Western Europe. Now exploitation of the Yamal reserves has been put off beyond the scope of the present five-year plan and a single 3,400-mile pipeline will bring the gas from the more southerly Urengoy field.

Despite reducing the project, the Soviet Union is having difficulty in financing it. Its request for an additional DM300m credit from its West German bankers has run into difficulties with the banks refusing to give Moscow the cash because Poland has still to pay nearly \$300m of interest owing from 1981 and because the order inflow from the deal has been so meagre.

City backing for Telecom research

By Bill Johnstone, Electronics Correspondent

British Telecom in partnership with four City-backed companies has formed a subsidiary called Mardesham Enterprises to develop and exploit the by-products of research made at the corporation's laboratories at Mardesham Heath, near Ipswich.

The new company has been established with issued ordinary share capital of £250,000. The shareholders are British Telecom (30 per cent), Electra Investment Trust (25 per cent), Lazard Brothers (20 per cent), Reeburn Investment Trust (20 per cent) and Thompson Clive and Partners (5 per cent).

The new venture will be chaired by Mr Mark Burrell a director of Lazard Brothers. About 1,800 people are employed at Mardesham

Yesterday he said: "Mardesham Enterprises brings together the public and the private sector, the City and advanced technology in a new partnership. "In the next two or three years we hope to be responsible for the successful sponsorship of several new companies."

It is intended that Mardesham Enterprises would assess the commercial potential of a particular discovery and be responsible for drawing up a business plan for the new company including funding and product marketing. British Telecom in turn could either take a stake in the new venture or be paid a royalty on sales.



Co-op Bank announces a change in base rate

From 14.50% to 14.00% p.a.
With effect from
Tuesday, 26th January
1982

Deposit Rates will become:
7 day deposits 11.50% p.a.
1 month deposits 11.75% p.a.
Short-term deposits
from 12.50% to 14.10% p.a.
depending on amount & term
(minimum £500 & 6 months)



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Hill Samuel Base Rate

With effect from the close of business on January 26th, 1982, Hill Samuel's Base Rate for lending will be reduced from 14 1/2 per cent to 14 per cent per annum.

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BUSINESS NEWS/COMPANIES AND MARKET REPORTS

JAMES CAPEL

Brokers eye a bullish equity trend

Sentiment in the London stock market is decidedly bullish. It is possible, as James Capel points out in his new *Equity Market* comment, to see the FT 30-share index up by at least 40 per cent over the next 18 months.

There is plenty of logic to back this kind of forecast, which is why the danger of sky-high yields in the New York money and bond markets has not sent fund managers running for their United States "buy" lists.

Since the United Kingdom plunged into recession before the other major industrial countries, there is a good chance that it will emerge first. The flow of funds out of the United Kingdom has slowed down, and more overseas fund managers are seeking to put cash into United Kingdom equities as well as the money markets.

Most of the important London stock brokers are forecasting a good improvement in company profits for 1982. In United Kingdom wages are coming in at 7.8 per cent level on average in the current round, productivity is improving, and destocking should soon ease off — all good reasons for better company profit performance.

Sterling is still too high to give a good boost to the competitiveness of United Kingdom exports. But at present levels it is less of a hindrance than it was in 1981.

Amidst the current and coming events, the March 8 Budget looks likely to give something of a boost to the corporate sector. The icy

and damp weather may have an adverse effect and soaring domestic fuel bills could squeeze the consumer goods purchase out of the family budget.

James Capel's way of looking at the figures is to start with the projection of corporate profits rising by at least 20 per cent over each of the next two years. Dividends, it points out, will rise in line with this because of the present low level of earnings cover. Capel suggests that dividends could only go up by perhaps 10 per cent each year.

Moving on to the yields on gilts and equities in recent years, it sets up two scenarios. Under the first, which is more pessimistic about refloating and the level of interest rates it sees a 15 per cent yield on gilts. If the gap between that and the yield on equities is 7 per cent (it has averaged 7 over the last 10 years), they it expects a rise of 15 per cent in the level of the market.

But, and this seems to be the view it prefers, the lower level of inflation now being experienced should indicate a narrower gap

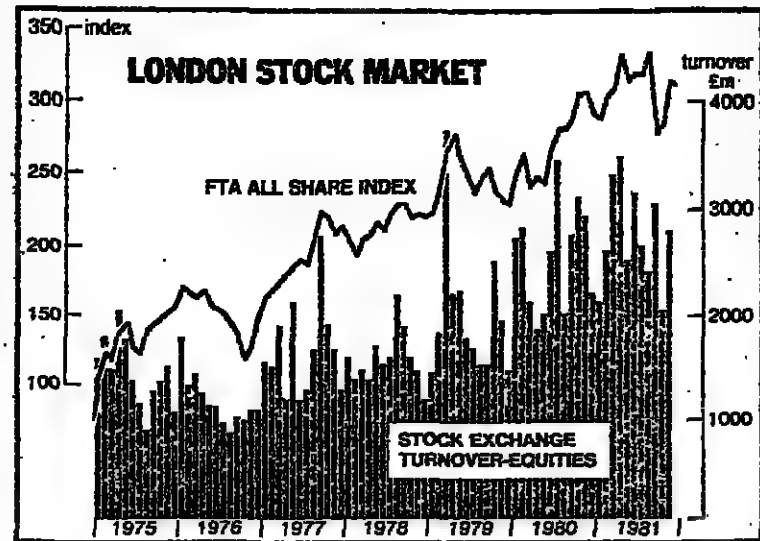
between gilt and equity yields. Looking at the figures conservatively, Capel argues: "Gilt yields of 12 per cent, and a yield gap of 8 per cent imply a 4 per cent equity yield although equity yields have not been lower than 5 per cent since 1972/73. Even a 5 per cent basis would allow the market to rise by around 40 per cent from today's level taking the 30-share index above 700."

Without spelling out a forecast for the market as specifically as James Capel, the team who moved across from Phillips & Drew to Simon & Coates is also optimistic. In its view company profits could go up by 14 per cent in 1982. It sees the largest recoveries coming from engineering, building materials and clearing banks (very similar to James Capel's buying list).

It points out: "The equity market, contrary to general belief, has shown increased stability since the mid-1970s. We expect 1982 to bring a steady improvement in the market, with a continuation of the trend towards reduced volatility."

Phillips & Drew is bullish, but again less specifically (in cold print at least) than the other two. It also looks at sectors, and picks out some of the leaders in textiles, paper, industrial materials, chemicals and engineering — in other words depressed manufacturing companies.

Sally White



DISCOUNT HOUSE

Alexanders advance lifts shares

Alexanders Discount, the City discount house, reports higher profits for 1981 and a restoration of the general reserve to the £5m level ruling at the end of 1978. The shares rose from 239p to 252p on the news.

Disclosed profits after tax and transfer to hidden reserves are up from £1.25m to £1.75m but the true level of profit is thought to have been at least £2.25m because Alexanders has transferred £500,000 from hidden reserves to the disclosed general reserve.

Alexander said it had been a difficult year because of volatile interest rates, especially in the last six months, so it was pleased to report profits which allowed an increase in the dividend and also an expansion in the trading base of the company and thus the size of the portfolio which can be carried.

The final dividend is being raised by 13 per cent to 18.57p gross to give a total of 26.43p compared with 24.3p in 1980.

Mr Douglas Grant, managing director, said the company had capitalized on the uncertainty when the Bank of England's new monetary system was introduced. "We took a cautious view and anticipated difficult conditions, particularly in the second half of the year," he said.

He said that by taking a defensive stance, Alexanders had secured its finance costs for much of the second half of the year, and at the end of the year was operating on running margins of about 2 per cent.

In the gilt market, the area in which fellow discount house Smith & Aubyn recently reported £20m of losses, Alexanders also took a cautious view throughout the year and ended it with net holdings of only £4m of gilts compared with £400,000 net a year before.

This compared with total balance sheet footings of

£464m at the end of 1981, a 7 per cent increase over the year. The balance sheet also comprised £41m of Treasury Bills, £271m of other bills and £78m of sterling CDs. Holdings of variable-rate local authority securities were virtually unchanged at £49.5m.

After having had to draw on reserves to pay the dividend in 1979 because of losses that year, general reserves have now been restored by the £500,000 transfer from inner reserves.

ALLIED TEXTILE

Record year

Allied Textile Companies continues to shrug aside the textile recession, but still sees no sign of an upturn. In the year to September 30, turnover rose by one per cent to £29.9m and pretax

profits, excluding a small exceptional income, went ahead by more than 5 per cent to a new peak of £3.08m. The group, headed by Mr Joseph Lumb, has not hesitated to cut back in areas where demand has dried up, and it has been equally successful in moving into new markets like car fabrics and soft furnishings. In doing this the group has also built a cash mountain which now stands at £5m, or around 120p a share. So the £575,000 cost of the dividend of 9.96p gross is covered by the £700,000 of interest income alone. The latest pretax profits were also flattered by the decision to take £662,000, against £481,000, of mill closure and reorganization costs below the line, instead of directly against pretax profits.

Allied has benefited from a cut in costs after shrinking its labour force from 4,000 to 1,000 in seven years. Germ-



Mr Joseph Lumb of Allied Textile

any and Japan are key export markets and much depends on the movement of the pound against the Deutsche mark and the yen. The shares responded to the latest figures and a scrip issue of one-for-ten by rising 13p to 173p, a peak for the year. Since the beginning of 1981 they have come down to 144p, but the yield is 6 per cent, almost the textile average.

CRODA

Sterner defence

Croda International, the chemical processor, yesterday stepped up its defence against the unwanted attentions of Burmah Oil's £80m bid by giving shareholders a profit forecast for 1981. According to Sir Frederick Wood, chairman of Croda, pretax profits should rise to around £10.1m, up 36 per cent over the previous year's figure of £7.4m. However, this is still some £4.6m below the all-time high of £14.7m achieved in 1979.

In addition, the board intended to recommend a final dividend of 3.24p gross, making a total of 5.35p against the previous figure of 4.4p. Burmah's initial reaction to the forecast came from Mr Campbell Anderson, a director, who said, "The performance was not quite up to what one could expect from Sir Freddie in his heyday. Shareholders must be sadly disappointed." He then added that "the forecast appeared to have been a combination of disillusionment and pious hope."

Burmah has yet to study the document in full detail but will be making a formal reply. Sir Frederick said the upturn in profits had come from an all-round improvement in all divisions with further emphasis on loss elimination.

There are tangible signs, he said, that the United Kingdom chemical companies are recovering strongly and this is just starting to come through in the figures. Only last week Sir Frederick attacked the wisdom of Burmah's bid at 70p a share after considering the effects that the acquisition would have had on Burmah's own overstretched finances.

MERCANTILE HOUSE

Making the most of a global spread

Shareholders in Mercantile House should be experiencing a warm glow. First-half pretax profits have doubled to £6.1m, just 11m short of the last annual result, itself a twofold rise. The six-monthly dividend is up 40 per cent to 5p gross, while the share price, which stood at 345p when the company made its July two-for-five rights issue, is now 455p.

Any company so strategically positioned outside the main channels carrying export and international capital flows could hardly go wrong. But Mercantile has taken full advantage of its situation.

The geographical spread of offices to Toronto, Sydney, San Francisco and Tokyo enables Mercantile to cover all time zones. Tokyo will open up business in Far East currencies, notably the yen further broadening the scope. Mercantile's growth almost to match London.

Big banks want to deal with big money brokers, so the new discounts on large volume transactions could encourage higher turnover. In the first half, turnover also doubled to £31.7m. The recent revival of the European market should help as well. Mercantile has shown a shrewd sense of how to make acquisitions

at multiples below that of the parent. Only two months of Cosmox, the Swiss money broker, and Rouse Woodstock, the American commodity broker, are in these figures to the end of October. Mercantile is taking Rouse into financial futures to offset dull commodity markets.

The likelihood, therefore, is that full year profits will double again. This must be encouraging for the sector, since R.P. Martin will be reporting interim in about a month and Exco its annual figures at the beginning of March.

On this basis Exco, still best known as Astley & Pearce despite its triumphant market debut in October, will make £12m for 1981. That should intensify the competition with Mercantile, particularly in the communications field. R.P. Martin made £705,000 in the first half of its last financial year and £2.17m — an increase of 220 per cent — for the whole year.

But these prospects did not stop money brokers from easing yesterday, partly because the market was down and partly because of profit-taking after last week's vigorous run up.

Mercantile closed at 455p, having reached 460p at one point, and Exco and R.P. Martin were 198p and 330p respectively.

Michael Prest

INTERNATIONAL



WEST GERMANY

Mannesmann AG said its Mannesmann Handel AG unit and Thyssen AG's Thyssen Stahlunion GMBH subsidiary have jointly won a 1.2 million order for over 12 million tonnes of 56-inch steel pipe.

JAPAN

The Japanese Government has given firm assurances that it will increase imports from the United States and the 10 countries of the European Community.

Toyota Motor Co., Japan's largest car manufacturer, and Toyota Motor Sales Co., its marketing arm, will merge on July 1 in order to win an advantage in the intensifying competition in the small car world market.

BELGIUM

The Belgium wholesale price index for December rose 0.6 per cent from November, picking up from the November increase of 0.3 per cent.

November steel production in the European Community, excluding Greece, fell 9.7 per cent in December, but was up 13.6 per cent in the year, according to figures released in Brussels.

FRANCE

Total deposits in French savings banks rose by 14 per cent last year to stand at Fr432,000m (£39,000m) on January 1, up from Fr329,000m in 1980.

Negotiations in Paris between officials of the French Gas utility Gaz de France and the Algerian oil and gas corporation Sonatrach will continue "at least" until today, a spokesman said yesterday. The talks began on Saturday.

UNITED STATES

The group of six US companies that handles imports of Mexican natural gas is negotiating to double subsidies to 600 million dollars a year.

The Dallas-based LTV company has withdrawn from the bargaining for Chrysler's tank-building subsidiary, leaving Teledyne and General Dynamics as likely bidders. The United Rubber Workers Union will seek "meaningful" wage rises when contract talks with the big four tyre companies begin in March it was announced by union officials in St Louis.

UGANDA

Representatives of Ugandan, British, Belgian, French, Austrian and American banks and financing institutions have agreed on a tentative £65m plan to rebuild and redevelop Uganda's largest sugar estate at Kakira, 60 miles east of Kampala.

SWEDEN

The Swedish consumer price index, base 1980, fell 0.4 per cent to 114.9 in December against a 0.3 per cent rise to 115.4 in November, a 0.4 per cent advance to 105.2 a year ago.

SOUTH AFRICA

South Africa's consumer price index rose by 13.9 per cent in the year to December 1981, down from 15.8 per cent in 1980. The index reached 216.3 last December, up from 214.8 in November and 189.9 in December 1980.

Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank	14%
Barclays	14.75%
BCCI	14.75%
Consolidated Crds.	14.75%
C. Hoare & Co.	14.75%
Lloyds Bank	14%
Midland Bank	14%
Nat Westminster	14%
TSP	14%
Williams & Glyn's	14%

* 25p deposit on sum of £10,000, 12 months, 12.5% over 250,000-500,000

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COMMODITIES

COMMODITIES	Unit	Price	Change
COPPER	Higher grade cash	284.50-29.50	Three months 287.50-78.00
LEAD	Higher grade cash	227.50-23.50	Three months 230.00-23.50
STEEL	Higher grade cash	227.50-23.50	Three months 230.00-23.50
WHEAT	Higher grade cash	227.50-23.50	Three months 230.00-23.50
SOYBEANS	Higher grade cash	227.50-23.50	Three months 230.00-23.50
COFFEE	Higher grade cash	227.50-23.50	Three months 230.00-23.50
TEA	Higher grade cash	227.50-23.50	Three months 230.00-23.50
SUGAR	Higher grade cash	227.50-23.50	Three months 230.00-23.50
CRUDE OIL	Higher grade cash	227.50-23.50	Three months 230.00-23.50
NATURAL GAS	Higher grade cash	227.50-23.50	Three months 230.00-23.50

M. J. H. Nightingale & Co. Limited							
27/28 Lovat Lane London EC3R 8EB			Telephone 01-621 1212				
The Over-the-Counter Market							
1981/82	Company	Price	Change	Grp. Div. (%)	Yld %	P/E Multi-Taxed	
121	100	ABN Hlds 10% CULS	121	—	10.0	8.3	—
75	62	Albright Group	69	—	4.7	6.8	11.0
51	33	Armstrong & Rhodes	45	-1	4.3	9.6	3.3
203	187	Barton Hill	203	+1	9.7	4.8	9.9
104	82	Deborah Services	82	—	6.0	7.3	4.1
129	79	Frank Horsell	129	—	6.4	5.0	11.6
76	39	Frederick Parker	76	+1	1.7	2.2	33.0
76	46	George Blair	48	—	—	—	—
102	93	IPC	94	—	7.3	7.8	6.8
105	100	Isis Cowe Prof	105	—	15.7	15.0	—
113	55	Jackson Group	95	-1	7.9	7.4	3.0
139	108	James Burroughs	113	-1	8.7	7.7	8.2
394	250	Robert Jenkins	253	—	31.3	12.4	3.5
59	51	Scrutons "A"	55	—	5.3	9.6	8.5
222	167	Torday & Carlisle	167	—	10.7	6.4	5.4
15	10	Twinklark One	73	—	—	—	—
80	65	Twinklark LKX, ULS	75	—	15.0	20.0	—
103	75	Walker Holdings	72	-2	3.8	11.1	4.8
103	75	Walker Alexander	75	—	6.4	8.5	4.9
263	212	W. S. Yates	216	—	13.1	6.1	4.1

Prices now available on Prestel page 45246

Prices now available on Prestel page 48146

BUSINESS NEWS/FOCUS AND COMMENT

PEOPLE

Tannoy is back in Britain

They have not exactly broadcast the news, but the six British directors of Tannoy have bought out the company from its American owners, Beatrice Foods.

Directors Norman Crocker (managing), David Bissett-Powell, Ian Dunn, Peter Russell, Peter Wilcox and Stanley Livingston, keep their jobs. So, too, do the 140 staff in south-east London and Coatbridge, Strathclyde.

Crocker and the Tannoy team, I'm told, secured this lively firm at a knockdown price with the help of commercial law expert David Haggart and Beatrice's wish to de-conglomerate. Barclays Bank came up with about £1m, covering both purchase and immediate funding.

Tannoy long ago diversified from the public address systems that made the company a household word to millions of service people in the war. The company exports more than three-quarters of what it makes, ranging from hi-fi and studio speakers (sold in Japan under the Tannoy name) to wired gun control systems sold in the Middle East.



D'you suppose some Cornish nutter will try to burn it down?

Sweet day, so cool

Daniel Boulud is finding life sweet in his latest job, that of chef to the EC ambassador to Washington, Vicomte Roland de Kerorlay.

The ambassador recruited Boulud in Brussels to soften up the mighty of Washington with nouvelle cuisine at the residence in Belmont Road.

But of late Belmont Road has been clogged with the limousines of Washington's hostesses, dispatched to bring back 10lb boxes of chocolate truffles at \$120 a time. Chauffeurs asking for smaller quantities were directed to two stores supplied by Boulud.

The chef, having sniffed America's entrepreneurial air, had gone into business for himself. But since jokes have begun to circulate around Washington about the "European Chocolate Community", Boulud has been asked not to rustle his sweet wrappers so loud.

Design and marketing were on the agenda at Number Ten Downing Street last night, not of a prime ministerial meeting with the Conservative Party's new Director of Marketing, Christopher Lawson, but of a seminar Mrs Thatcher held for senior executives on "product design and market success". She urged business people to remedy what she sees as British industry's neglect of good design.

Appeals on Wheels

Mrs Audrey Barter (below) paid an unexpected and unusual return visit to the City yesterday.

Accompanied by the pipe and drum band of the Scots Guards she called at the Stock Exchange and was allowed onto the trading floor in her wheelchair to collect money for Stoke Mandeville Hospital.

Mrs Barter met many old friends for she was the manager of Slaters', a restaurant now sadly closed but once very popular with the market.



NEW APPOINTMENTS

Mr John S Fraser has been appointed corporate managing director, Ciba-Geigy Plastics and Additives, in succession to Dr K W Humphreys. Mr Fraser will also retain his existing responsibilities as head of the Ilford Photographic Group and a member of the board of Ciba-Geigy (UK).

Mr Peter Guest has been appointed sales and marketing director of Bonar Lang. Mr A P Dignam has been appointed assistant managing director of Dixons Photographic (UK).

A new consortium is taking over the Jari project. Patrick Knight reports

How the Amazon defeated an American millionaire

Sao Paulo The Amazon jungle has claimed another illustrious victim — multi-millionaire Daniel K. Ludwig, aged 84, whose enormous Jari forestry and pulp project is being acquired by a consortium of 23 banks and private companies, with major government participation.

The consortium was being formally inaugurated in Brasilia yesterday. Brazilians are not sure whether to celebrate or cry.

Ludwig, said to be the richest man in the world, but now an ailing recluse in New York, battled with Jari for 14 years. He is giving up after pouring more than \$1,000m of his own money into the 4 million acre project, the largest piece of real estate in the world, and he will be paid nothing for at least five years.

That an octogenarian American millionaire should feel that the Amazon has, finally, become too much for him, is perhaps not too surprising, what does give pause for thought, however, is that the man who has put together the package to take over the Jari project is himself a septuagenarian — 75-year-old Brazilian Senhor Augusto Azevedo Antunes, an old friend of Ludwig.

Can he do better? The problems which mounted up and finally overwhelmed Ludwig, were certainly formidable.

The final straw for him was ostensibly the delay by the authorities in giving definite legal title to about half the land. But as Ludwig has only planted trees on about a twelfth of the area so far, that cuts little ice. The real reason, as the Brazilians who are taking it over now realize, is that the project in its present form is not viable. Hundreds of millions more dollars will have to be risked to make it so.

When Ludwig was first invited to invest in Brazil, in the heady days of the late 1960s the "miracle" years, when the economy was growing at 10 per cent and more a year, he was given the red carpet treatment. All obstacles would be swept away, and he would be left alone, as long as he put up the cash. This was the sort of deal Ludwig liked. Used to shipping, when a shrewd one voyage charter could sometimes recoup the cost of a supertanker, he set about conquering the Amazon in the same way.

He bought the world's biggest and most sophisticated machines to clear the jungle. He scoured the globe to find the technology for a pulp factory which could be towed around the world to Jari. This would avoid the costly problem of assembling sophisticated plant deep in the Amazon, something which wary mining engineers refer to with respect as "Amazon factor", and which they say can push construction costs to three times what they are elsewhere.

As the years passed, and the land was cleared and planted, Ludwig found that many of his high technology needs were unsuitable. The big machines got bogged down, and had to be abandoned. The fast-growing gmelina trees from Nigeria and Indonesia did not do well on sandy Jari soils, and have largely been replaced by the eucalyptus and Caribbean pine everywhere else plants in Brazil.

But Ludwig, who runs his



Jari: its mounting problems overwhelmed the millionaire American

companies largely on his own did not like to be told things were not working out. Men who dared to do so were often fired. All sorts of scare stories started to emerge from Jari, coinciding with the period of political liberalization, and the



Daniel Ludwig: his dream became a nightmare.

return to Brazil of critics of the regime.

The huge enclave Ludwig was setting up, close to borders with Venezuela and the Guyanas, looked very suspicious to those who believed there was a plot for the imperialists to get hold of Amazonia. Some suggested Ludwig was collaborating with the CIA and was in partnership with reactionary forces in Brazil. The secretive Ludwig did not help himself. Jari became like a separate country, and access even for government officials was made difficult.

Journalists were barred and often made up stories. They had plenty to go on. To try to reduce massive labour turnover, in a region where cash payments were often unknown,

Ludwig tried to keep his labour force on site, and prevent men going back to the coastal town of Belém every time they received a pay packet.

To encourage them to stay, however, Ludwig built schools, hospitals, and good housing. He provided free electricity and water, and there are supermarkets which sell at reasonable prices, unknown in Amazonia. There is a railway, a port, and an airport. In fact — and this has proved a major problem — a costly infrastructure was put in to sustain the production of three thousand tons of pulp a day, four times what is actually produced.

On top of problems of his own making, the climate of opinion about Jari itself began to change. Echoes of the nationalist campaign against Jari, stressing the exploitation of Brazil by foreigners, began to be felt. Ministers sensed that Jari could be a liability.

The old Brazilian maxim, first coined by 1930s dictator President Getulio Vargas "for my friends, everything, for my enemies, the law" began to be applied.

So the immovable object has come into collision with the irresistible force, and Ludwig has disposed of Jari. Selling is the wrong word. He will not get a cent for at least five years, if he lives that long, and then only between 3 and 5 per cent of whatever profits Jari by then brings in. Having no heirs the money will go to the Ludwig cancer research foundation, in Switzerland.

Augusto Antunes, who now takes up the burden of Jari, is a wealthy industrialist who in partnership with Bethlehem Steel, has been mining manganese in the hills close to Jari for 23 years. He is Brazil's second largest iron ore exporter, and has ranching and forestry

interests in Amazonia, so he knows the problems of the Amazon well.

Antunes's company Caemi, is putting up \$40m of the \$100m by which Jari capital is to be increased from private sources. The chairman of the new board is Sergio Quintella, president of the International Engineering Company. The other 22 companies to participate are having their arms twisted hard to come up with \$3m each. The government will provide \$180m. This \$280m total will be enough to pay off various debts to third parties, such as the Iahwakajima Shipyard, which built the pulp plant, and Lloyd's Bank.

But the take over solves almost nothing, except to rescue Brazilian pride and save Brazilian face, as businessmen reluctant to participate are pointing out. For Jari to be viable, pulp exports would have to be doubled, preferably trebled. The necessary thousand-tons-a-day plant would cost at least \$500m. Where is that to come from?

If it is not raised, Jari is really just a magnificent new town deep in the Amazon jungle, providing very good living conditions for the 7,000 or so on site, and scrabbles for the further 35,000 who have been attracted to the town outside, called "Beyond the Pale". Carping, if Jari were to disappear under the jungle carpet, as other projects by illustrious names such as Ford, have done, they would have a lot to answer for. Many in Brazil acknowledge an immense debt to Daniel Ludwig in finding out, albeit the hard way, how to deal with Amazonia.

But as a story of a rich man's conundrum, with \$1,000m lost down the River Amazon, Jari can have had few equals. Orson Wells should be on his way to make a film about Citizen Ludwig.

Shopping without the frills

MARKETING AND ADVERTISING: GENERICS

By Peter McGoldrick

A note of austerity has started to enter the normally flamboyant arena of grocery marketing. Shoppers in the United Kingdom and in many other countries are seeing a new and very bland type of product packaging appear on supermarket shelves.

These packs usually carry only the product description, in blunt, stencil type lettering, and the required product information, set against a white or plain background. Conspicuously missing are the enticing pictures of the product and the other customary packaging embellishments.

Within the grocery industry, such products are usually known as "generics" but they are also sometimes referred to as "brand-free" or "no-name" items. They differ from the well-established retailer own labels in that the retailer's name is not prominently displayed on the package. For consumers, they are offering ranges of basic commodities at prices considerably below normal for those products.

Although appearing dull, generics have attracted interest and attention from grocery manufacturers, retailers, their agencies and the consumer organizations. To some retailers, they have offered a way of buying market share and of departing somewhat from the treadmill of short-term special offers.

The appeal of generic grocery products depends to a large extent upon the effective communication to consumers of the "no-frills" message. If shoppers believed that the sizable price reductions were mainly a result of lower quality contents, the products would gain only limited acceptance.

Evidence has emerged suggesting that generic buyers perceive the price reduction to be explained mainly by lower advertising, labelling, and packaging costs. In the United States, *Progressive Grocer* published the following results in 1979.

Generics are cheaper because:		Non-Generics	Generics
No advertising	13%	29%	37%
Cheaper Packaging	21%	13%	13%
Lower quality	15%	38%	38%

The actual (as opposed to perceived) components of the

price reductions are considerably more difficult to quantify and vary between the different ranges. One British retailer claims that its generic products are of as high, or higher quality than the well known brands. In other cases, the concept of an "acceptable quality" is applied and slightly lower



Austerity returns to the supermarkets

For this reason, it is not entirely surprising that the development of generics has been far from welcomed by most grocery manufacturers. Although they offer an opportunity to smaller manufacturers or to major manufacturers with excess capacity, in general they are seen as another manifestation of the growing power of the large, multiple retailers.

Two more major British multiples became involved in 1981: Allied Suppliers with its "Basics" and Tesco with its "Value Lines".

Generics represent an intensification of competition

the Department of Management Sciences at the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology included a survey of customers at a Fine Fare hypermarket at which the full range of Yellow Packs is sold.

Less than 5 per cent of the shoppers were unaware of the Yellow Packs, and 82 per cent had purchased at least one generic item.

The survey showed that the purchasing of generics was not more common among the lower occupation groups. Awareness was highest among the "up-market" shoppers which had the effect of increasing the proportion purchasing generics. Using the Jicmars occupation grading system:

Awareness and purchase of Yellow Packs		Occupation	AB	100%	88%
		CE	85%	84%	
		DE	83%	82%	
		FE	83%	78%	

The only groups who were significantly less likely to have purchased generics were those over 65 and the one or two-person households.

The purchasing of ten specific generic items was surveyed in detail and customer satisfaction proved high. In only two cases did less than 75 per cent of those who had tried the product intend to continue buying the generic version.

The survey showed that 80 per cent of the Yellow Pack purchases represented a switch from a manufacturer's brand, 20 per cent from the Fine Fare brand. Although the manufacturer brands were the bigger target, this indicates a substantial overall increase in the proportion of trade taken by the retailer's two product ranges.

The indications from both home and abroad are that we have not yet seen the full impact of grocery generics.

In the United States generics have captured a 5 per cent share of the \$200,000m grocery market and some forecasts suggest that the share could reach 25 per cent by the end of the decade. Generics have become the main competitive weapon both between American supermarkets and against the retailers.

Harlow Unger, a commentator on the American retailing scene said: "Now, at last, it's cheaper for Americans to eat at home!"

By comparison, British retailers have been cautious, some possibly reluctant to precipitate an all out "generic war". Carrefour and Fine Fare have been the most willing exponents of the concept but the Tesco launch in Scotland could be just a beginning. Allied Suppliers is also experimenting with a "generic store", a form of response to the limited range discounters that has already been seen in the United States.

The pressure upon other retailers will inevitably increase. Many shops within the Mace group have adopted some or all of its 26 "Basic Buy" products, which have started to bring generics into the corner — shop type of outlet.

The author is Lecturer in Marketing at the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology.

Business Editor

As US interest rates climb...

Are the Europeans going to fall at the first hurdle as they set off on a course to lower interest rates? The simple answer is that it is too early to tell. When European interest rates were led down last week, it was not done in total blindness of what was happening in the United States. The theory must be that at some stage this spring, American interest rates will resume a falling trend, and that the dollar, too, will start to slip.

For the moment, though, the ride is clearly going to be extremely bumpy and the riders may yet be unseated. Last week's United States money supply was again appreciably worse than expected, and yesterday's opening Fed Funds rate of more than 15 per cent was enough to send the shivers down plenty of spines. Hardly surprisingly, the Bank of England made it clear to the discount houses that the fall in British short-term rates had gone far enough for the moment. It may also have been conducting "smoothing" operations in the foreign exchange market.

The real question is how much pressure the Bank can stand if the going gets really tough. While it can probably allow period money market rates to rise a good half per cent before it starts to feel uncomfortable at the very short end of the interest rate spectrum, it is questionable how far it would want to intervene in the foreign exchange markets in support of sterling. Drawing sterling out of the system would merely exacerbate the present shortages in the money markets.

On the basis of the latest trade figures, there should perhaps be no great anxiety about adopting the alternative policy of letting sterling find its own market-rate over the short-term in expectation of a bounce back at a later stage. But is the recent trade performance too good to last?

Rowntree Crunch time

It was always only a matter of time before Rowntree-Mackintosh, with 23.5 per cent of the Huntley & Palmer equity, moved to swallow the whole group.

What has presumably precipitated matters has been the fear that Allied-Lyons, with just under 5 per cent of H & P, might have been about to take the initiative. Where this leaves Allied-Lyons remains to be seen. But with Rowntree's offer, valuing H & P at some £75m — on the basis of a dismal recent record and pre-tax profits of no more, perhaps than £8m to £9m for 1981 — the opening stakes are already looking at recovery

prospects and ways of improving the return on H & P's capital employed of well over £100m.

Naturally, that is what Rowntree says its bid is all about — helping H & P to make full use of its potential. That may seem fair enough. Doubtless, though, any H & P defence will be quick to point out that Rowntree's main aim is to but its way into areas outside the stagnating confectionery market and broaden its geographical exposure.

Rank Org. Getting better

After the first-half setback from £53.5m to £36.7m, when the Xerox side went off the boil, and an anticipated lacklustre showing from the Organization's own activities, most leading analysts had been forecasting a sharp deterioration in Rank's pretax profits from last year's £109.4m. In the event the £102.8m pre-tax outturn was a good £10m better than even the most optimistic had been expecting, and the shares jumped almost a tenth to close at 190p.

The key to the latest trading performance has been both an improvement in the Xerox business and a sturdy contribution from the non-Xerox operations which have been such a thorn in Rank's side for most of the 1970s. Rank's share of Xerox has been boosted by £15m after use of the new American accounting standard FAS 52, which takes currency changes — in this case adverse ones — straight to the balance sheet rather than coming through the profit and loss account as under FAS 8. As it is, after Xerox's first-half setback, its full-year contribution is only marginally down at £85.1m, probably due to the better sales/rental mix in its business.

No one is going to get too excited by Rank's other trading activities but at least the worse performances from leisure, hotels and holidays, and the industrial division have been compensated by stronger contributions by television and property to leave trading profits level pegging.

The question now, of course, is whether the leopard really has changed its spots. But with new products coming through in the Xerox business and a more coherent look to the non-Xerox side, there is a lot more confidence around, certainly enough with the encouraging statement to suggest profits next year of £125m. Together with the 8.2 per cent yield, that should be strong enough support even without the bid rumours.

Bank of Ireland

announces that with effect from close of business

on 26th January 1982

its Base Rate for lending

is reduced from

14½% to 14%

per annum

Bank of Ireland

Allied Irish Banks Limited

INTEREST RATE CHANGE

Allied Irish Banks Ltd. announce that with effect from close of business on 25th January 1982 the Base Rate for advances is reduced from 14½% to 14% p.a.

Allied Irish Banks Limited
64/66 Coleman Street
London EC2R 5AL

Heavy selling of gilts

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

BRITISH FUNDS				COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN				LOCAL AUTHORITIES				DOLLAR STOCKS				BANKS AND DISCOUNTS				BANKS AND DISCOUNTS				BANKS AND DISCOUNTS				BANKS AND DISCOUNTS			
1981/82	1982/83	1983/84	1984/85	1981/82	1982/83	1983/84	1984/85	1981/82	1982/83	1983/84	1984/85	1981/82	1982/83	1983/84	1984/85	1981/82	1982/83	1983/84	1984/85	1981/82	1982/83	1983/84	1984/85	1981/82	1982/83	1983/84	1984/85	1981/82	1982/83	1983/84	1984/85
Price	Chgs	Yield	P/E	Price	Chgs	Yield	P/E	Price	Chgs	Yield	P/E	Price	Chgs	Yield	P/E	Price	Chgs	Yield	P/E	Price	Chgs	Yield	P/E	Price	Chgs	Yield	P/E	Price	Chgs	Yield	P/E
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